MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

Jan.-March, 2005, Vol. 15 No. 1
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$2,500	$665	$1,645	$2,295	$1,705	27 Int. - MBF	11
White oak (group)	$1,600	$560	$610	$835	$1,055	24 Int. - MBF	3
Sawlogs							
Cottonwood	$200	$35	$180	-	$100	141 Int. - MBF	4
Hackberry	$125	$60	$85	-	$85	50 Int. - MBF	6
Hickory	$305	$60	$125	$120	$170	69 Int. - MBF	13
Mixed Hardwoods	$305	$25	$115	$115	$160	499 Int. - MBF	13
Oak (mixed species)	$300	$120	$180	$200	$145	557 Int. - MBF	8
Post Oak	$230	$45	$140	$140	$150	165 Int. - MBF	13
Red oak (group)	$385	$115	$200	$220	$195	1,951 Int. - MBF	28
Shortleaf Pine	$150	$120	$120	$135	$145	68 Int. - MBF	2
Soft Maple	$305	$85	$220	$155	$190	32 Int. - MBF	4
Sycamore	$80	$80	$80	$100	$100	80 Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$985	$375	$685	$570	$450	80 Int. - MBF	12
White oak (group)	$410	$110	$175	$175	$215	803 Int. - MBF	24

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed "# of Rpts." to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

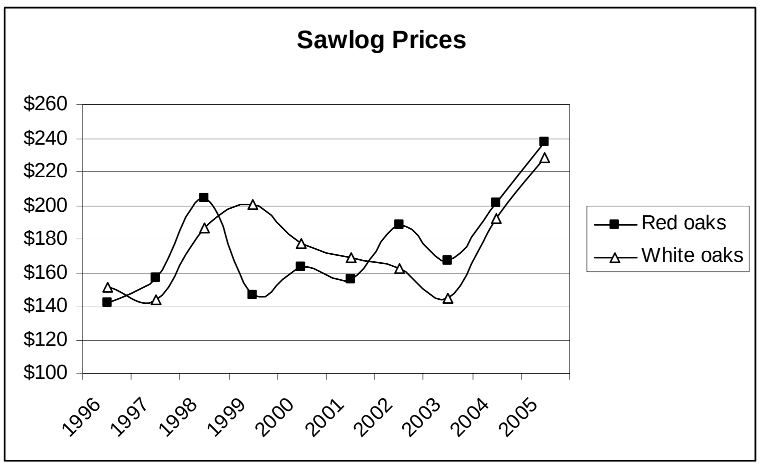


Figure 1 - Sawlog price trends over the past 10 years in Missouri.

Ozark Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$1,350	$1,350	$1,350	$3,135	$1,040	2	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Hickory	$305	$60	$125	$120	$165	55	Int. - MBF	11
Mixed Hardwoods	$305	$25	$115	$70	$165	399	Int. - MBF	10
Oak (mixed species)	$235	$165	$185	$220	$185	476	Int. - MBF	4
Post Oak	$230	$45	$140	$140	$150	165	Int. - MBF	13
Red oak (group)	$305	$120	$200	$220	$190	1,799	Int. - MBF	22
Shortleaf Pine	$150	$120	$120	$110	$145	68	Int. - MBF	2
Soft Maple	$305	$305	$305	-	$85	5	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$985	$415	$890	$455	-	30	Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$305	$135	$180	$170	$190	581	Int. - MBF	16

Prairie Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,500	$665	$1,670	$2,155	$1,900	25	Int. - MBF	10
White oak (group)	$560	$560	$560	$835	$1,040	23	Int. - MBF	2
Sawlogs								
Cottonwood	$200	$35	$180	-	$100	141	Int. - MBF	4
Hackberry	$125	$60	$85	-	$85	50	Int. - MBF	6
Hickory	$100	$100	$100	-	$130	10	Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$140	$60	$135	$135	$75	98	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$300	$120	$170	$190	$110	81	Int. - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$230	$115	$170	$190	$180	104	Int. - MBF	5
Soft Maple	$220	$85	$205	-	$190	28	Int. - MBF	3
Sycamore	$80	$80	$80	$70	$90	80	Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$900	$375	$555	$645	$485	49	Int. - MBF	10
White oak (group)	$165	$110	$150	$185	$190	212	Int. - MBF	7

Riverborder Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
White oak (group)	$1,600	$1,600	$1,600	$835	$1,065	1	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Hickory	$210	$210	$210	-	$180	4	Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$125	$125	$125	$125	$80	1	Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$385	$385	$385	$210	$235	48	Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$410	$410	$410	$185	$265	11	Int. - MBF	1

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

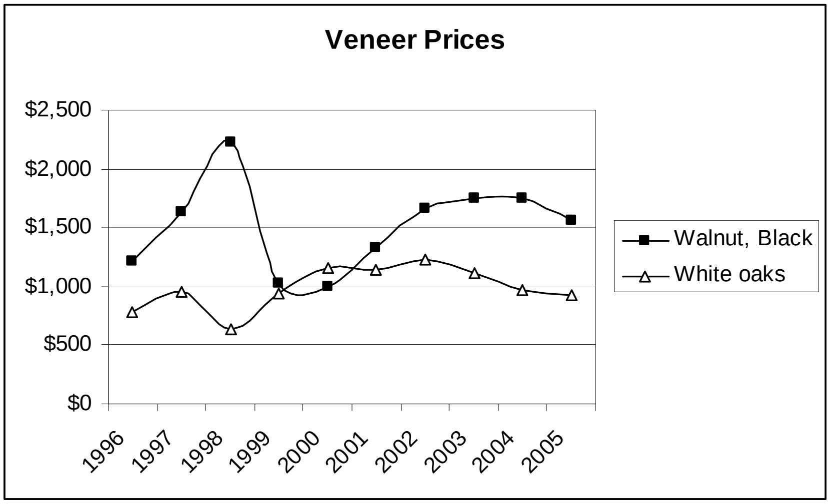
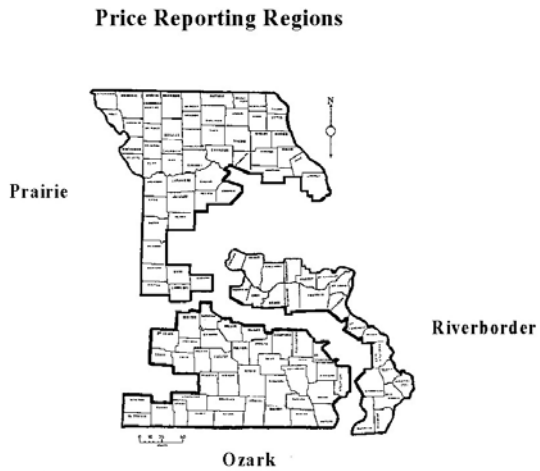


Figure 2 - Veneer log prices trends over the past ten years in Missouri.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 47 timber sales containing 4,709 MBF located throughout the state.



Editor's Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://www.mdc.state.mo.us/landown/* and clicking on the "Conservation Assistance Contractors" link.

Tom Treiman, Editor

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

(Economic) Life without Missouri's Forests

What would life be like if Missouri had no forests? Besides being a lot less pleasant, scenic and enjoyable for us and the plants and animals that rely on Missouri's forests, Missouri's wallets would take a big hit!

A recent analysis by the Missouri Department of Conservation showed that the forest products industry contributed $4.43 billion annually to the Missouri economy in 2005 dollars. The industry supports over 32,250 jobs at a payroll of about $1.1 billion and is responsible for over $360 million in taxes that help to run our state and country, including $54 million in state sales tax. These number include not only the direct effect of jobs in the primary wood processing industry (such as logging and sawmill operations) but also indirect and "induced" effects in the secondary wood products industry (such as cabinet shops, log cabs, paperboard manufacturing and so on) and in the economy as a whole (loggers, sawyers, and carpenters, after all, buy groceries and gas just like the rest of us). Results are based on data collected by the US Bureau of Economic Analysis, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, the US Department of Agriculture, and the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) between 2001 and 2004, and compiled by the Minnesota IMPLAN Group and MDC.

And that $4.43 billion doesn't even include the value of a day spent walking in Missouri's woods with your family searching for morels, trying to spot a migrating warbler or next season's big buck. That part is priceless!

News from Missouri's Neighbors

Nebraska reports that the lumber market has been a bit lackluster. Many items are over produced with stagnant demand and price. New home sales continue to rise, although housing starts have showed some signs of slippage. Despite it all, most sources are optimistic that the future will be bright, busy, and profitable. Illinois prices have not changed significantly since this period last year.

The latest edition of Timber Mart-South finds that the south-wide average mixed hardwood sawtimber stumpage price continued to recover, increasing 11 percent in the 4th Quarter and ending the year nearly 5 percent above one year ago. Hardwood pulpwood stumpage prices also averaged higher this quarter, but ended the year far below last year's record level and still less than pine pulpwood in most markets.

Sources: Nebraska Forest Service. Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Timber Mart-South Market Newsletter.

California: Cost of logging plans soars, university study finds

The increasing cost of logging regulations may prompt more landowners to sell their timberland for development and other uses, particularly in areas where property values are rising, according to a new study. Although these results come from the far away state of California, they may prove an interesting point of comparison for Missouri landowners.

The California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, study finds the average cost of meeting California's regulations has increased 1,200 percent over the last 30 years, and now tops $30,000.

"It's the regulations themselves that are driving up the costs," said CalPoly forestry professor Richard Thompson, the report's co-author and a licensed forester himself.

California attempts to avoid poor outcomes by regulating every detail of the harvest, he said. In Oregon, by contrast, "their approach is to look at the outcome: 'You know what the law is. If anything happens, you're in deep trouble.'"

California's approach can drive up costs without appreciably improving conditions, contend Thompson and his co-author, assistant forestry professor Christopher Dicus.

Not so, countered John Buckley, executive director of the Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center.

"Timber harvest plans are not a bureaucratic exercise but do provide important information, and we believe they are not detailed enough for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to adequately understand the effects of logging on wildlife and water," Buckley said.

The state's system also does a poor job of gauging the cumulative effects of multiple timber cuts over years or larger geographic areas, Buckley said, alleging state regulators routinely and quickly approve most harvest plans.

The cost of preparing what is known as a timber harvest plan was about $2,300 in today's dollars 30 years ago, the CalPoly professors found in examining 607 plans averaging 73 acres. Much of the increased cost came with increased regulations in 1993, prompting a nearly 60 percent price jump.

The higher regulatory costs also put California companies at a competitive disadvantage in marketing their lumber, the authors found. The regulatory cost of reviews by several state agencies doesn't include expenses from lawsuits or other challenges.

Source: Associated Press.

Canada: The Dispute Continues

A group of U.S. timber growers and lumber producers has endorsed negotiations with Canada on a softwood trade deal after Ottawa submitted a new plan to resolve the long-running conflict.

"We would support these negotiations at the earliest opportunity," Rusty Wood, chairman of the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports, said in a letter to Commerce Undersecretary Grant Aldonas.

Canada has sent the United States a plan for resolving the four-year-old dispute that has resulted in extensive litigation on U.S. import duties against Canadian lumber used to build houses.

The U.S. industry group noted that the plan "leaves questions unanswered and there are aspects of it that we do not support as presented." It also proposed that Canada suspend all pending lawsuits to "concentrate" on a negotiated solution.

In Ottawa, Canadian Trade Minister Jim Peterson rejected that idea. "We're going to continue our litigation in the softwood case. But meanwhile, I will work very actively toward negotiated settlement. As well, we will continue our track of retaliation," Peterson said.

The Canadian proposal floated to provinces and the forest industry last week would replace current U.S. punitive duties with an export tax that eventually would be phased out.

The United States has collected more than $3 billion in duties on Canadian spruce, pin, fir and other softwood lumber that makes up about one-third of the U.S. market.

The duties were imposed after the Bush administration found Canadian provinces were providing unfair production subsidies and Canadian companies were exporting the wood at below-market prices.

Canada denies the allegations and has challenged the duties before international trade tribunals.

A key sticking point of any negotiated settlement is likely to be the already-collected duties, which Canada wants back and U.S. firms want at least a portion of.

Several earlier attempts at a deal have failed and talk of renewing the effort came shortly before the March 23 meeting between U.S. President George W. Bush and Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin.

"Everybody has that in mind," said Harry Clark, a lawyer representing the U.S. industry. But a deal by then is unlikely, given the complexity of the trade dispute.

While Ottawa portrayed its latest proposal as enjoying support throughout Canada, the opposition Conservative Party criticized the plan on Wednesday.

Ontario forest industries said federal authorities had "forged ahead with a highly questionable strategy."

Canadian industry officials think Canada is on the verge of victory as a North American Free Trade Agreement panel this spring is expected to issue a key decision on the case.

Source: Reuters.

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

April-June, 2005, Vol. 15 No. 2
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$1,750	$1,750	$1,750	$1,645	$1,655	4 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$920	$920	$920	$610	$1,305	1 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	$70	$60	$65	$65	$110	5 Int. - MBF	3
Basswood	$165	$165	$165	$165	$100	2 Int. - MBF	1
Eastern Redcedar	$100	$100	$100	-	-	2 Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$90	$65	$85	$85	$70	5 Int. - MBF	2
Hard Maple	$60	$60	$60	-	$140	1 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$190	$35	$110	$125	$150	28 Int. - MBF	6
Mixed Hardwoods	$170	$60	$165	$115	$120	62 Int. - MBF	5
Oak (mixed species)	$175	$50	$135	$180	$150	1,115 Int. - MBF	6
Pecan	$50	$50	$50	-	-	38 Int. - MBF	1
Post Oak	$225	$120	$165	$140	$130	61 Int. - MBF	6
Red oak (group)	$245	$155	$190	$200	$185	1,716 Int. - MBF	14
Shortleaf Pine	$120	$100	$120	$120	$120	7 Int. - MBF	3
Soft Maple	$150	$150	$150	$220	$150	8 Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$100	$100	$100	$80	$85	8 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$1,090	$210	$355	$685	$415	95 Int. - MBF	4
White oak (group)	$380	$130	$160	$175	$195	315 Int. - MBF	9
Pulpwood							
Mixed Hardwoods	$2	$2	$2	-	-	200 Tons	1

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed "# of Rpts." to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF scale, except the Prairie Region which is reported in Doyl MBF. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Ozark Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Hickory	$190	$120	$155	$125	$150	13	Int. - MBF	3
Mixed Hardwoods	$170	$65	$165	$115	$160	61	Int. - MBF	4
Oak (mixed species)	$175	$115	$135	$185	$170	1,075	Int. - MBF	4
Post Oak	$225	$120	$165	$140	$130	61	Int. - MBF	6
Red oak (group)	$245	$155	$190	$200	$185	1,649	Int. - MBF	11
Shortleaf Pine	$120	$100	$120	$120	$120	7	Int. - MBF	3
Walnut, Black	$210	$210	$210	$890	$450	47	Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$190	$145	$170	$180	$200	102	Int. - MBF	4
Pulpwood								
Mixed Hardwoods	$2	$2	$2	-	-	200	Tons	1

Prairie Stumpage Prices (in Doyle MBF)

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,100	$2,100	$2,100	2004	1992	3	Doyle - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$78	$78	$78	78	90	1	Doyle - MBF	1
Basswood	$198	$198	$198	198	120	2	Doyle - MBF	1
Hackberry	$78	$78	$78	102	84	1	Doyle - MBF	1
Hickory	$42	$42	$42	120	168	7	Doyle - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$60	$60	$60	204	270	28	Doyle - MBF	1
Pecan	$60	$60	$60	-	-	32	Doyle - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$222	$222	$222	204	240	10	Doyle - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$600	$282	$546	666	456	38	Doyle - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$198	$156	$168	180	174	13	Doyle - MBF	2

Riverborder Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
White oak (group)	$920	$920	$920	$1,600	$1,665	1	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$70	$60	$65	-	$185	4	Int. - MBF	2
Eastern Redcedar	$100	$100	$100	-	-	2	Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$90	$90	$90	-	-	4	Int. - MBF	1
Hard Maple	$60	$60	$60	-	$160	1	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$110	$100	$105	$210	$165	7	Int. - MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	$60	$60	$60	$125	$110	1	Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$115	$115	$115	-	$140	7	Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$190	$170	$185	$385	$160	54	Int. - MBF	2
Soft Maple	$150	$150	$150	-	-	8	Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$100	$100	$100	-	$95	8	Int. - MBF	1

Riverborder Stumpage Prices (continued)

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Walnut, Black	$1,090	$1,090	$1,090	-	$415	3 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$380	$140	$155	$410	$210	196 Int. - MBF	3
Oak (mixed species)	$115	$115	$115	-	$140	7 Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$190	$170	$185	$385	$160	54 Int. - MBF	2
Soft Maple	$150	$150	$150	-	-	8 Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$100	$100	$100	-	$95	8 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$1,090	$1,090	$1,090	-	$415	3 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$380	$140	$155	$410	$210	196 Int. - MBF	3

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 17 timber sales containing 3,472 MBF located throughout the state. Although it may not show up in the current numbers, several reporting foresters noted a drop in prices in the Ozark region due to recent overproduction of flooring materials. Several timber sales were bid out and no bids satisfactory to the owner were received. However, foresters report that there seems to be strong demand for ties.

Price Reporting Regions

Editor's Note

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Tom Treiman, Editor

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
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Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

South-wide Hardwood Prices

Mixed hardwood sawtimber prices varied greatly from state to state this quarter, with average prices up double-digit percentages in some and down dramatically in others. The south-wide average price decreased 3.3 percent over last quarter and returned to nearly the same price as in the 1st Quarter 2004. Hardwood pulpwood prices followed pine pulpwood upwards, averaging 14.6 percent above last quarter, although still below the strong prices one year ago.
Source: Timber Mart-South

WTO Holds Off on U.S.-Canada Lumber Flap

The World Trade Organization on Wednesday delayed ruling on whether Canada should be allowed to impose sanctions on U.S. products in retaliation for American duties on softwood lumber. The WTO's dispute settlement body held off after Washington contested the level of the sanctions that Canada was seeking, 400 million Canadian dollars ($319 million).

It also set up a panel to examine whether the United States has complied with a 2004 WTO decision, which ruled that Washington's duties violated global trade rules.

In that decision, the dispute settlement body rejected claims by the Canadian government that the United States had acted illegally in investigating whether lumber from Canada was being sold at below the cost of production — a practice known as dumping.

But the panel also said that the U.S. government's calculations of its antidumping duties were wrong because Washington used a method called "zeroing," in which sales at above-market prices are ignored. Washington later cut its duties, but Canada said the move was insufficient.
Source: The Associated Press.

Hardwood flooring shipments gain momentum

Figures released Tuesday by the Memphis-based Wood Flooring Manufacturers Association showed a 5.57 percent increase from last month's shipments of hardwood flooring products. The association reported 56.6 million in board feet shipments for April 2005, compared to 53.62 million the month prior. April's shipments also represent a slight 0.8 percent increase from April shipments of 56.1 million board feet in the 2004 record year. It's the first time this year monthly shipment figures have surpassed their 2004 equivalents.

Year-to-date figures still linger at 4 percent less than the same period last year, at 212.8 million board feet, compared to 222.35 million for the same period last year.

According to association officials, slow-downs in production spurred by lower pricing in the first four months of 2005 have caused the industry to fall short of demand in previous months. Increased shipments in April reflect companies catching up with demand now that prices have stabilized.

Founded in 1909, the Wood Flooring Manufacturers Association writes and enforces quality standards and grading rules for solid and engineered hardwood flooring products. More than 75 percent of hardwood flooring in the U.S. is produced by association members.
Source: American City Business Journals

China becomes largest destination of US hardwoods

China has become the largest destination of the hardwoods of the United States, said Theodore Rossi, chairman of the American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) in Beijing Wednesday in a press conference.

According to US statistics, in 2004 the value of US hardwood products imported to China's mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan reached 3.6 billion RMB yuan (approximately 500 million US dollars) , representing a growth of 29.2 percent from 2003. In 2004, the annual construction value of China reached 200 billion dollars, and the annual production value of the domestic furniture market was 24 billion dollars, "thus creating bright prospects for US hardwoods to be utilized in interior decoration and furniture manufacturing," said Michael Snow, executive director of the council.

The council predicted that by 2008 flooring demand in China will hit 2.5 billion square meters while the door and window market will hit 500 million units.

"China's rapid economic growth and new housing privatization initiatives have created a new generation of increasingly affluent consumers who are eager to outfit their homes and work environment with quality interior furnishings made with US hardwoods," Snow said.

"Driven by strong domestic and overseas market demand for China made US hardwood products, China has been the world's leading US hardwoods importing country for three years in a row," said John Chan, Regional Director of American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) Southeast Asia and Greater China. AHEC is headquartered in Washington, DC, USA and is the leading trade association driving market development programs for the US hardwood industry.

Source: Xinhua

How healthy are your trees?

Missouri's trees and forests have always been important to us. Once covering 70 percent of our state, trees continue to provide us with countless public and private benefits.

Whether they provide your means of living, lend beauty to your place of recreation or forge the character of your neighborhood, trees cannot be taken for granted. Just like us, they are susceptible to factors of disease, pollution and age. To continue enjoying its many benefits, forest health must be promoted.

Keeping an eye on trees and forests is a task that cannot be met by a single agency or group. In Missouri, volunteers are always known to rise to a challenge, and this time, the challenge is trees. You are invited to participate in a valuable statewide volunteer forestry project.

The Missouri Forestkeepers Network is an opportunity for all Missourians--urban and rural--to get involved in understanding and gaining important information about the condition of trees and forests. By joining the network, you play an essential role in the future of Missouri's trees and forests. Join us. Together, we can foster a state of forest health for generations to come.

Forestkeepers is free to any interested citizen, family or group. It is your choice alone to determine your level of involvement.

Choose the site you or your group would like to study, Or, if you want, we can assist with site selection. Additional training and projects are being developed for interested volunteers. For more information contact the MDC office nearest to you (see pages 6 and 7).

Other News: AmerenUE settles Bagnell Dam lawsuits in bid for license renewal

Anglers, armers, boaters and property owners around Lake of the Ozarks stand to reap millions of dollars worth of benefits and long-sought concessions in how AmerenUE operates Bagnell Dam if federal regulators approve a deal worked out by conservation officials and the private utility company.

The company announced May 18 that it had signed the agreement with state and federal agencies to clear the way for a new operating license for the dam and associated Osage Hydroelectric Power Plant. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) must approve the agreement before it becomes binding.

The agreement requires AmerenUE to make one-time payments totaling $1.3 million to settle lawsuits by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the Missouri Attorney General's office. Those lawsuits stemmed from a 2002 incident that killed more than 43,000 fish at the hydropower facility.

Conservation Department Assistant Director Denise Garnier called the agreement "an enormous step forward in how we balance the needs of lakes and rivers."

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

July-Sept., 2005, Vol. 15 No. 3
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
White oak (group)	$790	$790	$790	$920	$415	7 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	$210	$55	$60	$65	$165	48 Int. - MBF	3
Cottonwood	$50	$50	$50	-	-	84 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$210	$85	$120	$110	$90	31 Int. - MBF	3
Mixed Hardwoods	$240	$40	$205	$165	$75	479 Int. - MBF	7
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$75	$125	$135	$130	571 Int. - MBF	7
Post Oak	$210	$85	$125	$165	$110	18 Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$210	$100	$135	$190	$225	561 Int. - MBF	5
S Yellow Pine	$75	$75	$75	-	-	34 Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$160	$160	$160	$150	$210	106 Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$85	$85	$85	$100	-	36 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$415	$415	$415	$355	$465	2 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$315	$100	$140	$160	$180	515 Int. - MBF	8

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed “# of Rpts.” to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale, except for the Prairie Region (See map on page3) for which all prices and volumes are reported in Doyle-MBF. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Ozark Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Ash	$210	$210	$210	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$210	$85	$160	$155	$70	15	Int. - MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	$240	$65	$215	$165	$80	388	Int. - MBF	3
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$105	$165	$135	$120	288	Int. - MBF	4
Post Oak	$210	$85	$125	$165	$110	18	Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$210	$110	$145	$190	$230	434	Int. - MBF	3
White oak (group)	$210	$125	$140	$170	$190	199	Int. - MBF	3

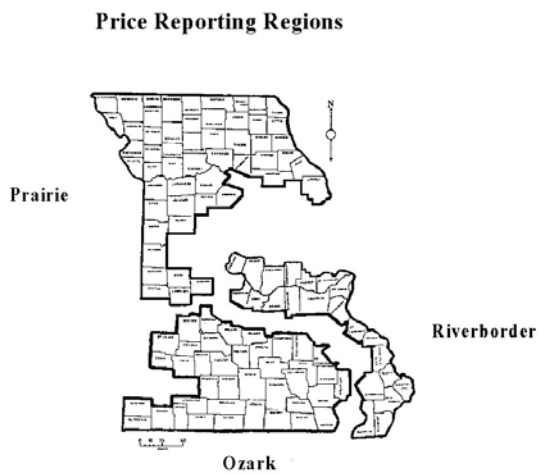
Prairie Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Ash	$66	$66	$66	$78	$198	33	Doyle - MBF	1
Cottonwood	$60	$60	$60			70	Doyle - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$138	$48	$96		$120	8	Doyle - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$138	$138	$138	$222	$252	46	Doyle - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$192	$192	$192		$252	88	Doyle - MBF	1
Sycamore	$102	$102	$102			30	Doyle - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$210	$138	$162	$168	$150	178	Doyle - MBF	2

Riverborder Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
White oak (group)	$790	$790	$790	$920	$415	7	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$85	$85	$85	$65	-	7	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$85	$85	$85	$105	$160	16	Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$200	$65	$185	$60	$65	82	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$125	$75	$80	$115	$130	283	Int. - MBF	3
Red oak (group)	$100	$100	$100	$185	$185	72	Int. - MBF	1
S Yellow Pine	$75	$75	$75	-	-	34	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$415	$415	$415	$1,090	-	2	Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$315	$100	$140	$155	$250	104	Int. - MBF	3

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 16 timber sales containing 2,493 Int.- MBF located throughout the state.



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Hurricanes and Timber

Once again the headlines in September have been full of hurricanes. While our thoughts turn to the human cost of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and to the efforts that will be required to rebuild or restore large parts of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, the storms will also affect forestry for years to come. Missouri and the nation's timber markets should soon feel the effects too, although just what the effects may be is harder to predict.

Once the massive task of clean-up is finished, the longer term efforts of rebuilding will begin. The increased demand for timber will be felt across the entire country, but there will also be an increased supply of wood as timber damaged by the storm is salvaged.

Conservative estimates suggest in New Orleans alone 160,000 of the city's 200,000 housing units will have to be replaced. Then factor in other coastal cities such as Biloxi, Miss., that were largely leveled by the storm. But the reconstruction effort is expected to spread out over several years, which mitigates the effect on demand and prices in a U.S. housing market that had begun to fall off.

The U.S. National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) research centre estimated this week Louisiana and Mississippi account for about one per cent of U.S. lumber, engineered wood and structural panel demand in an average year. Even doubling it would make little dent in overall supplies, the association concluded. For example, rebuilding 160,000 housing units would require 1.9 billion board feet of softwood lumber for framing.

That compares with a total annual U.S. softwood market of about 60 billion board feet.

"The overall market is going to be determined by what happens in the country as a whole," said Shawn Church, editor of Random Lengths, the authoritative industry market bulletin based in Eugene, Ore. "Reconstruction down there is not going to drive the U.S. market."

The pace of rebuilding will also be influenced by the North American shortage of skilled construction tradespeople. As well, analysts said many displaced residents won't return to the Gulf Coast, which will disperse many new housing starts to the cities where they relocate.

Investors lifted shares of US lumber firms after the storms, betting demand would surge after Hurricane Katrina, but analysts were divided over whether rebuilding would actually boost results or merely support an otherwise weakening market.

What follows is a round-up of recent timber and hurricane related stories from the press:

From Mississippi: Trees have been snapped and uprooted across the state by the 100-plus mph winds of Hurricane Katrina, costing the state's timber industry millions of dollars statewide. Wayne Tucker, the executive director of the Mississippi Institute of Forest Inventory, said Katrina may have dealt Mississippi's timber industry a $1.2 billion blow. "Jackson County suffered a 40-50 percent loss," Tucker said. "The three counties hardest hit were Jackson, Harrison and Hancock. The next hardest hit were Pearl River and Stone. George and Greene counties each suffered a 15 to 20 percent loss." Officials from the Mississippi Forestry Commission, Mississippi State University, and the Mississippi Institute of Forest Inventory have conducted an aerial survey of damage. They say more than 24 million cords of pulp, chip and saw lumber, both pine and hardwood have been damaged by Katrina.

Tree growers are now faced with a double-edged sword, said Eugene Cooper, the George County Forester for the Extension Service. "First, there is the damage to the trees and second is the effect on the markets. Tree damage extends far beyond the easily visible splintered and uprooted trees," Cooper said.

The dead and dying trees greatly increase the risk of forest fires. A fire would be even more dangerous because personnel cutbacks over the past several years have slashed the number of personnel trained to fight a fire.

Dead and dying trees are a haven for destructive insects, especially the Southern pine beetle, and diseases such as blue stain. The fire hazard is so great that a ban on open burning in George and Stone counties has been issued by the Mississippi Forestry Commission.

"The damaged trees must be removed from these forests," Cooper said. Damaged trees will not bring anything close to market value, he said. "These trees will have less value as pulpwood and that value is decreasing every day," Cooper said. "Pulpwood is sold by the ton. Each day a broken tree dries a little and loses weight."

The effects of the storm are not all short term, Cooper said.

"There is a ripple effect that will be felt for years. The trees that are broken are gone from the rotation," he said.

From New England: As far away from the Gulf Coast as Vermont, lumber prices are already going up. "It's hard to find. People are hoarding and panic-buying," said Erik Gray, 40, of Burlington, VT.

Gray's sense of the lumber market is borne out by an analysis just completed by the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Northern Vermont, in conjunction with its national group. The study indicates that in Vermont, in the time since Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast, the cost of plywood and oriented strand board, a form of sheathing, has risen 15 percent, said Joe Sinagra, executive officer of the local home builders association. The post-Katrina price spike was largely due to shrunken inventories among wholesalers and retailers.

Although Hurricane Katrina didn't hit Maine, local building-supply retailers are certainly feeling her impact. According to NAHB, roofing materials, Sheetrock, plywood and oriented strand board are among the scarcest materials. Said Richard Tarr, owner of LaPointe Lumber Co. Inc. in Augusta., "I think, in a way, the consumers are creating a shortage," He added: "They want to buy the stuff right now and there just isn't enough to meet the demand, so there are definitely shortages."

From Florida: The cost of oil is another factor lifting the price of building materials. "Oil prices are affecting all aspects of transportation and manufacturing of materials," said Brenda J. Talbert, executive vice president of the Gold Coast Builders and that will affect petroleum products, such as roofing materials, as well, she said.

Some building materials also may be in short supply because they were damaged as a result of Katrina. Most of the nation's softwood lumber used to construct homes is grown in Mississippi and Alabama, said the NAHB.

While in the short term the NAHB expects increases in availability as growers harvest trees that fell from the storm, the long-term forecast is unclear because the extent of the tree damage has not yet been assessed.

Michael Carliner, a Washington-based economist for NAHB, said the first phase for heavy demand on building materials will be repair-related, plywood, windows and oriented strand board, used in roofing and walls. He said home-building materials won't be in demand for some time, given the expected delays before any significant rebuilding can start. "Rebuilding takes a longer time to start and a much longer time to finish," Carliner said. "What we found after each natural disaster is that it's very hard to detect that much additional construction occurred," he said. "That reflects a number of things: The reconstruction process is very slow, it may take a decade to really complete, and a lot of people don't rebuild."

Ken Tennefoss, publisher of Crow Publications, which produces a number of lumber-product-related reports, said the industry is better prepared to provide materials than it has been in the past because of the bigger customer base created by stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's. He said last year was a good one for the lumber industry, which led to overproduction this year and weaker-than-expected sales. Given that, the current supply is "pretty strong," Tennefoss said.

That apparent strength didn't ease concerns of futures traders, as lumber prices rose the highest allowable limit on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, up by $10 in one day and to $304.90 per 1,000 board feet by the end of September. Traders said with the expected demands for rebuilding, lumber may be at a bottom price now,

What will all this mean for Missouri's forest owners? Most probably a spike in softwood stumpage prices later this year.

Sources: AP Wire, The Birmingham News, Blethen Maine Newspapers Inc, Burlington Free Press, The Huntsville Times, Mobile Register, South Florida Sun-SentinelSunHerald.com, Yahoo News

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

Oct.-Dec., 2005, Vol. 15 No. 4
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$3,335	$335	$1,360	-	$2,295	30 Int. - MBF	14
White oak (group)	$835	$835	$835	$790	$835	3 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	$100	$85	$100	$60	$70	18 Int. - MBF	2
Cottonwood	$85	$50	$70	$50	-	59 Int. - MBF	5
Gum	$195	$195	$195	-	-	3 Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$85	$85	$85	-	-	11 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$195	$95	$185	$120	$120	105 Int. - MBF	5
Mixed Hardwoods	$1,150	$50	$170	$205	$115	139 Int. - MBF	6
Oak (mixed species)	$2,160	$75	$150	$125	$200	875 Int. - MBF	11
Post Oak	$195	$95	$170	$125	$140	235 Int. - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$340	$100	$190	$135	$220	2,234 Int. - MBF	13
Shortleaf Pine	$195	$95	$160	-	$135	64 Int. - MBF	4
Soft Maple	$200	$50	$180	$160	$155	185 Int. - MBF	4
Sycamore	$125	$15	$90	$85	$100	157 Int. - MBF	7
Walnut, Black	$1,075	$335	$735	$415	$570	88 Int. - MBF	13
White oak (group)	$335	$125	$190	$140	$175	453 Int. - MBF	10

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed "# of Rpts." to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Several foresters report that local loggers are contracted to help with hurricane efforts in Louisiana and Mississippi, or timber buyers are avoiding forester assisted sales. But good quality red oak and white oak sales retained interest. White oak stave logs appear to be enjoying increased demand while walnut prices and demand appears good. Soft maple is also attracting interest from some North MO buyers. Mills from several Ozark counties are bidding on and buying timber in central MO, although haul distance is long.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF Scale, except the Prairie Region which is in Doyle MBF. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Ozark Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Cottonwood	$50	$50	$50	-	-	3	Int. - MBF	1
Gum	$195	$195	$195	-	-	3	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$195	$95	$185	$160	$120	99	Int. - MBF	4
Mixed Hardwoods	$165	$165	$165	$215	$70	1	Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$240	$100	$175	$165	$220	479	Int. - MBF	5
Post Oak	$195	$95	$170	$125	$140	235	Int. - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$195	$165	$190	$145	$220	2,108	Int. - MBF	9
Shortleaf Pine	$195	$95	$160	-	$110	64	Int. - MBF	4
Soft Maple	$50	$50	$50	-	-	9	Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$50	$50	$50	-	-	15	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$1,040	$435	$815	-	$455	34	Int. - MBF	3
White oak (group)	$195	$165	$190	$140	$170	318	Int. - MBF	4

Prairie Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,400	$402	$1,272		2586	17	Doyle - MBF	9
White oak (group)	$1,002	$1,002	$1,002		1002	3	Doyle - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$120	$102	$120	66	84	15	Doyle - MBF	2
Cottonwood	$102	$78	$90	60		33	Doyle - MBF	3
Hackberry	$102	$102	$102			9	Doyle - MBF	1
Hickory	$150	$150	$150			5	Doyle - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$102	$60	$78	96	162	77	Doyle - MBF	3
Oak (mixed species)	$252	$90	$132		228	326	Doyle - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$198	$120	$180	138	228	88	Doyle - MBF	3
Soft Maple	$240	$180	$234	192		138	Doyle - MBF	2
Sycamore	$102	$18	$66	102	84	41	Doyle - MBF	4
Walnut, Black	$1,290	$402	$918		774	33	Doyle - MBF	7
White oak (group)	$252	$150	$192	162	222	93	Doyle - MBF	5

Riverborder Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$3,335	$1,250	$1,955	-	$810	10 Int. - MBF	5
Sawlogs							
Cottonwood	$75	$75	$75	-	-	16 Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$1,150	$65	$375	$185	$125	45 Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$2,160	$85	$870	$80	$120	6 Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$340	$340	$340	$100	$210	20 Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$115	$115	$115	-	$155	11 Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$125	$110	$110	-	$135	92 Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$585	$415	$480	$415	$665	15 Int. - MBF	3
White oak (group)	$335	$335	$335	$140	$185	24 Int. - MBF	1

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 28 timber sales containing 4,657 MBF located throughout the state.

Price Reporting Regions

Editor's Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://www.mdc.state.mo.us/landown/* and clicking on the "Conservation Assistance Contractors" link.

Tom Treiman, Editor

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Market Conditions

Nationwide

In spite of shock and uncertainty that prevailed across the U.S. in the wake of a disastrous Gulf Coast hurricane season, Timber Mart South reports that south-wide average stumpage prices in the 3rd Quarter were relatively flat, with some seasonal adjustment, compared to the previous quarter.

Timber Mart South also reports that hardwood timber markets strengthened further this quarter and south-wide hardwood stumpage prices averaged higher compared to the 2nd Quarter as well as one year ago. Compared to last quarter, the average mixed hardwood sawtimber stumpage price increased 1.4 percent and the hardwood pulpwood stumpage price increased 2.7 percent. In addition, hardwood pulpwood regained its premium over pine pulpwood again this quarter.

Slower home construction in 2006 will lead to a 2% reduction in U.S. demand for softwood lumber to 62.4 billion board feet, according to a forecast released by the Western Wood Products Association. While lower, the consumption volume would be the second highest on record. This year's consumption is expected to hit a fourth consecutive all-time high of 63.6 billion feet. The WWPA projects housing starts in 2006 to decline 6.7% to 1.91 million units. Western lumber production is expected to slow by 2%, in line with the decline in demand. Lumber imports are forecast to decline 1% next year.

Other States

Tennessee reports that the market for forest products is fairly strong, with some exceptions. The very dry weather there has enabled logging to continue into the fall and most facilities have full inventory, causing some mills to put logging on quotas, especially the pulpwood using facilities.

Tie markets are strong and the prices reflect a steady demand. Hardwood lumber has undergone some changes, primarily the shifting of demand from red oak and grain woods in kitchen cabinets to maple or other species. This has affected the red oak. Poplar demand is solid with a portion continuing to be exported to China.

The Nebraska Forest Service fins that many say it is currently difficult to broad brush any one facet of the market place as activity varies considerably from one customer and supplier to the next. Reports surrounding markets for oak continue to detail a generally competitive climate surrounding prices. Information on log decks points to declining inventories at various locations.

Sources: Timber Mart South, Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Nebraska Forest Service.

Hurricane Update

USDA Forest Service reports estimate that Mississippi suffered the most damage (from Katrina) in number of acres damaged, percent of timberland damaged, and total inventory down. Louisiana (from Katrina and Rita) and Texas (from Rita) ran very close second place for total inventory down.

Timberland and Inventory Damage, Katrina and Rita

	Timberland Damaged (Acres)	Timberland Damaged (Percent)	Total Inventory Down (m cuft)	Avg. Annual Removals (Percent)
Mississippi	3,372,000	18%	1,044	91%
Louisiana	1,276,300	9%	971	101%
Alabama	559,400	2%	216	17%
Texas	435,100	4%	967	126%

Source: USDA Forest Service

Gypsy Moths

History

The gypsy moth was introduced to the East Coast in 1869 and since then has been spreading slowly westward. When it arrives, the gypsy moth will be especially devastating to Missouri forests because one of its favorite foods is oak leaves. Mortality in our forests will likely be high due to the age of our forests and because most of our forests have a high percentage of oak species. The Departments of Conservation and Agriculture and numerous other state and federal agencies cooperate on a monitoring program to detect any introductions of gypsy moth. Each year, several moths are found that have been accidentally brought into Missouri from infested states. Spot infestations of gypsy moth were found in the 1990s in Dent County and in northern Arkansas near Branson. These infestations were controlled, delaying the introduction of gypsy moth into Missouri for the time being. Education programs are teaching citizens how to recognize the gypsy moth and instructing them to inspect their vehicles and belongings after visiting an infested state.

2005 Missouri Gypsy Moth Survey

The 2005 Missouri Gypsy Moth Survey has been completed, with ten gypsy moths captured in 8 counties. That total is a typical amount for Missouri. However, this is the first year since 1980 that no moths were taken from the St. Louis area. Moths were found in Camden (1), Clay (1), Crawford (1), Franklin (1), Greene (1), Jackson (2), Pettis (2) and Ste. Genevieve (1) counties.

Each year over 11,000 gypsy moth traps are set out statewide in May & June and monitored in July & August. Agencies providing personnel and resources to conduct the survey are the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Agriculture (the lead agency), USDA APHIS, USDA Forest Service, US Department of Defense, Missouri National Guard, and US Fish & Wildlife Service.

Locations where gypsy moths were caught in the previous year are trapped at a greater intensity to determine if actual populations are present. Fortunately, gypsy moths have not yet become established in Missouri.

Gypsy moth populations are present in North America in an area east of a line extending from Wisconsin through northern Illinois and on to North Carolina. This infestation front continues to expand westward toward Missouri.

Seedlings Available

The GEORGE O. WHITE STATE FOREST NURSERY, near Licking, offers Missouri residents a variety of seedlings for reforestation, windbreaks, erosion control, as well as wildlife food and cover. The seedling order form is available annually (mid-November to the end of April) and seedlings can be ordered using the online form at: http://www.mdc.mo.gov/forest/nursery/seedling/

Seedlings are:

- Bareroot, one, two or three years old, depending on species
- Available in single species bundles of 25 seedlings
- For use in Missouri.

Seedling sizes vary greatly depending on species.

For areas where a variety of seedlings are needed, in smaller quantities, four special bundles are available. The *Conservation Bundle* is recommended for people who want to add a mix of trees and shrubs to their property. The *Wildlife Cover Bundle* will improve habitat and food sources for a number of Missouri wildlife species. The *Extra-Large Nut Tree Bundle* is made up of pecan and walnut that are larger than our normal stock size. The *Walnut Variety Bundle* offers landowners three different varieties of black walnut for those interested in growing walnut for both nut and timber production. The *Quail Cover Bundle* provides plants for quail food and cover. The contents of these special bundles are preselected by the nursery, and no substitutes can be made.

Grow Native!

Grow Native! encourages use of native plant materials to enhance biodiversity and increase habitat, and support quality environmental practices. For information on how to landscape with native plants and a list of participating nurseries that sell Missouri native plants, send a self-addressed stamped envelope with 37-cents postage to

Grow Native!
P.O. Box 104671
Jefferson City, MO 65110
or visit us online at:
www.grownative.org

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

Jan.-March, 2006, Vol. 16 No. 1
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$3,750	$140	$1,575	$1,415	$1,645	45	Int. - MBF	14
White oak (group)	$340	$340	$340	$835	$610	36	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$145	$70	$115	$100	$65	23	Int. - MBF	6
Basswood	$100	$100	$100	-	$165	3	Int. - MBF	1
Cherry	$35	$35	$35	-	-	11	Int. - MBF	1
Cottonwood	$295	$25	$125	$70	$180	26	Int. - MBF	4
Elm	$130	$130	$130	-	$60	5	Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$295	$70	$85	$85	$85	93	Int. - MBF	4
Hard Maple	$100	$100	$100	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$219	$50	$185	$185	$125	178	Int. - MBF	14
Mixed Hardwoods	$295	$40	$95	$70	$160	559	Int. - MBF	19
Oak (mixed species)	$295	$60	$140	$145	$195	1,228	Int. - MBF	18
Post Oak	$255	$85	$185	$170	$140	123	Int. - MBF	10
Red oak (group)	$340	$85	$220	$190	$200	4,749	Int. - MBF	26
Shortleaf Pine	$255	$70	$90	$150	$125	460	Int. - MBF	7
Soft Maple	$295	$130	$145	$180	$220	133	Int. - MBF	6
Sycamore	$295	$20	$245	$90	$80	25	Int. - MBF	4
Walnut, Black	$925	$100	$335	$790	$685	274	Int. - MBF	17
White oak (group)	$295	$100	$195	$190	$175	794	Int. - MBF	16
Fence								
Mixed Hardwoods	$1	$1	$1	-	-	184	Cords	1
Shortleaf Pine	$3	$3	$3	-	-	19	Cords	1
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$270	$270	$270	-	-	2	Int. - MBF	1

North Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,500	$140	$855	$1,195	$1,910	13	Int. - MBF	5
Sawlogs								
Ash	$140	$100	$125	$100	-	16	Int. - MBF	3
Basswood	$100	$100	$100	-	-	3	Int. - MBF	1
Cottonwood	$295	$90	$170	$75	$195	17	Int. - MBF	3
Elm	$130	$130	$130	-	$60	5	Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$295	$130	$195	$85	$80	9	Int. - MBF	2
Hard Maple	$100	$100	$100	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$295	$50	$120	$125	$100	50	Int. - MBF	5
Mixed Hardwoods	$295	$40	$55	$65	$135	379	Int. - MBF	7
Oak (mixed species)	$295	$100	$135	$100	$300	163	Int. - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$295	$85	$95	$160	$140	152	Int. - MBF	4
Soft Maple	$295	$130	$140	$195	$220	115	Int. - MBF	4
Sycamore	$295	$100	$260	$85	$80	24	Int. - MBF	3
Walnut, Black	$415	$100	$180	$400	$500	12	Int. - MBF	6
White oak (group)	$295	$100	$125	$155	$145	198	Int. - MBF	5

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$3,750	$750	$1,855	$1,990	$1,515	33	Int. - MBF	9
White oak (group)	$340	$340	$340	-	$560	36	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$75	$70	$70	$85	$65	6	Int. - MBF	2
Cherry	$35	$35	$35	-	-	11	Int. - MBF	1
Cottonwood	$25	$25	$25	$75	$45	8	Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$75	$70	$70	-	$85	84	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$210	$210	$85	-	59	Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$340	$340	$340	$105	$160	-	Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$185	$185	$185	$115	$95	17	Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$20	$20	$20	$95	-	1	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$625	$415	$495	$765	$455	47	Int. - MBF	5
White oak (group)	$190	$190	$190	$170	$150	6	Int. - MBF	2

Southwest Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Oak (mixed species)	$240	$60	$115	$160	$145	243	Int. - MBF	6
Walnut, Black	$925	$415	$725	$990	$890	25	Int. - MBF	5

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Ash	$145	$145	$145	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$255	$85	$210	$185	$135	128	Int. - MBF	9
Mixed Hardwoods	$255	$90	$180	$165	$175	180	Int. - MBF	12
Oak (mixed species)	$295	$85	$145	$180	$200	763	Int. - MBF	7
Post Oak	$255	$85	$185	$170	$145	123	Int. - MBF	10
Red oak (group)	$270	$90	$225	$190	$210	4,597	Int. - MBF	21
Shortleaf Pine	$255	$70	$90	$150	$125	460	Int. - MBF	7
Soft Maple	$200	$200	$200	-	$305	1	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$255	$255	$255	$435	-	191	Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$270	$100	$220	$200	$200	590	Int. - MBF	9
Fence								
Mixed Hardwoods	$1	$1	$1	-	-	184	Cords	1
Shortleaf Pine	$3	$3	$3	-	-	19	Cords	1
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$270	$270	$270	-	-	2	Int. - MBF	1

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 48 timber sales containing 8,770 MBF located throughout the state. Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed "# of Rpts." to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. ("# of Rpts." refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

In order to reduce confusion, we have lined up our price reporting regions with the Missouri Department of Conservation's Regional boundaries. This should help landowners and forestry professionals who need to contact their local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester with questions about timber prices. Please see the map on page 7 for the new price reporting regions.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Editor's Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the "Conservation Assistance Contractors" link.

Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

Note: A "sale" often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the "# of Rpts." (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

News from Missouri

I have been to 102 sawmills this quarter. During these visits I noticed that most mills had a good supply of logs due to a dryer than normal winter. Most mill owners told me that the grade and flooring lumber prices have dropped and currently the product that is doing well for them is railroad ties.

I really do appreciate the time the sawmill owners have taken to visit with me in the last three months. One important thing I want to accomplish as a Forest Products Program Supervisor is to open up a line of communications with sawmillers, loggers, and landowners. If you have any ideas or suggestions to make the forest products program better please feel free to call me (John Tuttle) at (573)522-4115 Ext 3304.

Regional Prices

Timber Mart South reports that, compared to the previous quarter, south-wide average prices were mixed in the 4th Quarter of 2005. Prices were affected by Katrina/Rita salvage, high fuel prices, and dramatically different levels of precipitation (drought in the western South and heavy rainfall along the southern Atlantic Coast.

Across the South, mixed hardwood sawtimber saw average prices down slightly from last quarter and down 3.5 percent from the end of 2004. Hardwood pulpwood took a downward correction in the 4th Quarter, with the south-wide average price down 13 percent from the previous quarter although remaining 7.7 percent above the same period last year. Reporter in Arkansas and mentioned that dry logging conditions that depressed hardwood stumpage markets.

The Nebraska Forest Service reports that the marketplace remains “rather competitive”. Most suppliers are able to balance shipments with production, preventing wide-spread gains in inventory of a particular item. Many say poor logging conditions have resulted in reductions in total sawmill output.

The Tennessee Department of Agriculture-Division of Forestry notes that the market seems to be fairly steady. They received mixed reports of the conditions, some dry areas where log supplies are where they should be for this time of the year and a few others where wet weather has made logging difficult and consequently resulting in lower log inventories. The market for red oak is weak in the upper grades and has forced some mills to lower log prices. White oak was also very slow. Crossties were a bright spot as they continued to be in demand and that has forced a rise in price for both oak and mixed hardwood ties. (Gum makes the best tie, according to the Tennessee tie buyers.)

Source: Timber Mart South, Timber Talk (Nebraska Forest Service) , Tennessee Forest Products Bulletin

National and International News

Almost 4.8 million tonnes of pulp and paper capacity was shut in 2005, affecting more than 40 mills or machines, according to an annual review published March 13 by Forestweb. By contrast, shutdowns removed less than 2 million tonnes of capacity in 2004. The momentum of shutdowns in 2005 has also carried over into 2006, with more than 2 million tonnes of capacity slated for shutdown or idling in just the first six months of the year. As the North American pulp and paper sector consolidates, very little new capacity has been added. Of the almost 9.5 million tonnes of new pulp and paper capacity started up around the world during 2005, only about 8% was in North America.

Despite robust wood consumption at housing construction sites throughout North America—spurred by abnormally mild weather conditions in various regions—2x4 Douglas fir lumber prices eased by $12/mbf to $341 in February. March sales have continued to weaken to $322.

A ruling by an international trade panel that the U.S. made an improper calculation of Canadian subsidies to its lumber industry might lead to the elimination of an 8.7 percent duty on those imports, a U.S. lumber group said Friday. A five-member panel of judges set up under the North American Free Trade Agreement refused to reconsider issues raised by the U.S. Commerce Department over how it determined the subsidy rate for lumber exports to the U.S. The U.S. imposed duties on Canadian lumber in 2001 after American companies such as Potlatch Corp. petitioned the government for relief, arguing that Canada unfairly provides its domestic producers with cheap access to trees on government-owned land.

Source: Forestweb, Purchasing Magazine Online, Bloomberg News

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

April-June, 2006, Vol. 16 No. 2

Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Red oak (group)	$375	$375	$375	-	-	4 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$835	$835	$835	$1,575	$1,750	2 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$915	$835	$855	$340	$920	49 Int. - MBF	3
Sawlogs							
Ash	$135	$125	$135	$115	$65	58 Int. - MBF	2
Cottonwood	$110	$50	$65	$85	-	67 Int. - MBF	2
Hard Maple	$290	$290	$290	$100	$60	4 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$130	$90	$110	$180	$110	18 Int. - MBF	4
Mixed Hardwoods	$130	$60	$70	$90	$165	280 Int. - MBF	7
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$65	$135	$140	$135	455 Int. - MBF	4
Post Oak	$190	$90	$110	$180	$165	64 Int. - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$300	$90	$205	$225	$190	354 Int. - MBF	9
Shortleaf Pine	$90	$90	$90	$90	$120	7 Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$125	$50	$85	$105	$100	27 Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$615	$460	$605	$345	$355	24 Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$335	$85	$185	$200	$160	324 Int. - MBF	8
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	$290	$290	$290	$270	-	115 Int. - MBF	1

North Stumpage Prices (*Doyle Scale*)

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Red oak (group)	$450	$450	$450	-	-	4 Doyle-MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	$1,130	-	1 Doyle-MBF	1
White oak (group)	$1,100	$1,000	$1,030	-	-	40 Doyle-MBF	3

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF Scale *except* North Stumpage Prices, which are in Doyle-MBF. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

North Stumpage Prices (*Doyle Scale*)

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Ash	$160	$150	$160	$155	-	48	Doyle-MBF	2
Cottonwood	$130	$60	$75	$150	-	56	Doyle-MBF	2
Hard Maple	$350	$350	$350	$120	-	3	Doyle-MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$150	$70	$85	$65	-	223	Doyle-MBF	4
Oak (mixed species)	$150	$80	$105	$155	$60	208	Doyle-MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$360	$350	$355	$120	-	59	Doyle-MBF	2
Sycamore	$150	$60	$100	$150	-	22	Doyle-MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$740	$550	$725	$575	$280	20	Doyle-MBF	2
White oak (group)	$400	$100	$250	$160	$155	192	Doyle-MBF	4
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$350	$350	$350	-	-	96	Doyle-MBF	1

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Hickory	$90	$90	$90	$100	$105	6	Int. - MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	$90	$90	$90	-	$60	4	Int. - MBF	1
Post Oak	$90	$90	$90	$100	-	12	Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$90	$90	$90	$100	$185	75	Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$90	$90	$90	$115	$155	60	Int. - MBF	1

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Hickory	$130	$115	$125	$205	$155	12	Int. - MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	$130	$60	$85	$180	$165	8	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$180	$195	$145	$160	205	Int. - MBF	2
Post Oak	$190	$115	$115	$185	$165	52	Int. - MBF	3
Red oak (group)	$255	$190	$215	$230	$190	209	Int. - MBF	5
Shortleaf Pine	$90	$90	$90	$90	$120	7	Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$225	$190	$220	$225	$170	34	Int. - MBF	3

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed "# of Rpts." to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. ("# of Rpts." refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 13 timber sales containing 1,914 MBF located throughout the state.

Editors Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the "Conservation Assistance Contractors" link.

John Tuttle and Tom Treiman, Editors

Note: A "sale" often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the "# of Rpts." (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF Scale *except* North Stumpage Prices, which are in Doyle-MBF. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Private Forests

The *Economist* magazine reports that "a new breed of investor is taking over America's forests". Across America, vast swathes of land may have become more valuable for their development potential than for their timber. Since 1900, when Frederick Weyerhaeuser, a German immigrant, and 15 partners purchased 900,000 acres of land from a railway company in Washington State, big timber enterprises have held land for decades. They harvested trees for lumber or paper pulp, replanted, and patiently waited for another harvest in 50-60 years. It was a conservative, relatively safe business; the demand for wood and paper, although it has ups and downs, has remained generally strong. Investments in timber land proved a good hedge against inflation, and often did well when stocks on Wall Street fared poorly.

Now all that is changing. New tax rules, demand for building land and the influence of big investors such as pension funds have transformed the ownership of forest land. In recent years most tree-owning and lumber companies have sold their land to Timberland Investment Management Organizations (TIMOs), in which private investors pool together to buy timber holdings. Forest-products companies then buy trees from the TIMO-owned land and convert them to lumber or paper. In early April, for instance, International Paper, which is based in Connecticut, sold its 5.1m acres of American timber land for $6.1 billion to two TIMO investor groups.

Other companies, such as Plum Creek, have become publicly owned real estate investment trusts (REITs), which are also attractive to investors and reduce corporate tax. Plum Creek now owns more than 8m acres of forest land and reaps profits from timber, property and minerals. Today only two large publicly traded forest-products companies—Weyerhaeuser, based just outside Seattle, and Temple-Inland, based in Austin, Texas—still have substantial forest holdings. (Weyerhaeuser owns or leases 6.5m acres in the United States; Temple-Inland owns about 2m.)

Since 1996, 30m acres of private forest lands have changed hands, causing turmoil in the industry. Some of those most disturbed by the trend are the same greens who bitterly fought logging on federally owned lands during the 1980s and 1990s. They admit that logging in private forests, too, often wrecked the landscape. But companies such as International Paper were also diligent about re-planting trees and creating new forests that became valuable wildlife habitat and sources of clean water. Moreover, in many parts of the United States, timber companies allowed local people to hike, hunt or fish on their lands, a tradition greens fear may be lost.

The biggest current battle on this front is taking place around Moosehead Lake in northern Maine. Plum Creek owns 421,000 acres around the 117-square-mile lake, and would like to build as many as 1,000 houses, as well as lakeside resorts. The development would "fundamentally change the character of Moosehead Lake", now a quiet, rural region of hunting and fishing cabins, says Pete Didisheim of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Plum Creek counters that it is also preserving vast tracts of land around the lake. Critics, unconvinced, are fighting a rezoning proposal which the company needs to proceed. In many other parts of the country there is fear that new forest owners will quickly log their land, and then sell the denuded ground for housing.

Others see opportunity as forest ownership changes. In Wisconsin, for instance, the Nature Conservancy and the Department of Natural Resources negotiated an agreement under which investors bought 101 square miles of land from International Paper as part of that company's big woodlands divestiture earlier this year. The land will continue to produce maple, oak and cherry lumber—all very valuable—while also remaining open for recreation and wildlife conservation. "Because these forested areas are for sale, it's a great opportunity to buy them for preservation and sustainable forestry," says Bill Ginn, who works on forestry matters for the Conservancy. Groups such as Mr Ginn's also hope to make state tax rules more favorable to owners of forests.

No doubt, in years to come, some of the forests' new owners will opt for a quick and dirty profit from their lands, selling to Boston or Seattle residents who want a place in the (former) woods. But land across much of the United States was logged during the agricultural and economic expansion of the 1800s, and has grown back. Perhaps the natural patience of forests will prevail again.

Sources: *The Economist*, June 10, 2006.

Regional Prices

The Hardwood Market Report notes that although considerable volumes of Hard Maple and other whitewood species are still being used in the northern US, efforts by mills to saw through log decks boosted green lumber supplies and prices are responding accordingly. Oak markets are a bit more stable due to this focus on whitewood production. Most sources describe log decks in the North Country as ample; however, many express concerns over the high prices of logs and timber.

The southern market is described as competitive for key species and grades, although most mills and yards are still balancing shipments with production. However, concerns regarding future demand for 4/4 #1C Red Oak abounds, particularly since on-hand raw material inventories are high at most oak strip flooring plants. Demand for FAS and 1F White Oak and Poplar is characterized as robust. Log decks are ample across the territory, though frequent rains have affected logging in specific locations.

Timber Mart South says that south-wide average stumpage prices were up modestly for the five major timber products in the 1st Quarter of 2006 compared to the last quarter of last year. Timber markets were strongest for large diameter pine logs and relatively stable for other products. Dry weather and good logging conditions were the rule across the region.

The average mixed hardwood sawtimber price eased up slightly for the quarter and has remained relatively unchanged for the past five quarters. Hardwood pulpwood markets strengthened, with the south-wide price increasing 4.9 percent over last quarter, although down 1.4 percent from the 1st Quarter of 2005.

Indicators of the general market, reported by Random Lengths, show the Random Lengths Framing Lumber Composite price ended the quarter at $358 per thousand board feet (mbf) for the week ending March 31st, down about 4 percent from the end of 2005 and nearly 15 percent below the same period one year ago. The Random Lengths Structural Panel Composite price ended the quarter at $369 per thousand square feet, 3/8" basis (msf), down about 6 percent from the end of 2005 and nearly 19 percent below the same period one year ago.

Sources: 1) Condensed from Hardwood Market Report, May 13, 2006, Nebraska Timber Talk. 2) Timber Mart South, 3) Random Lenths.

News from the Field

By John Tuttle

Thanks to all who spent time visiting with me this past quarter (93 sawmill visits). I am still hearing that red oak lumber prices are not where they should be. I am also hearing the cross-ties are doing well. I understand that good walnut logs are bringing a good price.

It has been very interesting to me to travel all over the state to talk to sawmillers and loggers. I grew up around small circular sawmills and feel that I understand how they operate and what production levels they are capable of producing. In my travels around the state I have had the opportunity to visit all different sizes of mills. I have seen the small band sawmills that produce about 2,000 board feet a day and also had to opportunity to visit several mills that are producing well over 20,000 board feet per day. The least waste of wood products is occurring overall in the larger mills. The larger mills seem to have the act for selling products like wood chips, slabs and sawdust. Some of the small mills can not afford to buy an extra truck trailer to blow sawdust into just too basically sell the dust for cost.

This past quarter I traveled to Richmond, VA to the Smallwood Conference. I heard talks on using small diameter wood to make energy (heat, ethanol, and electricity) and products such as flooring. I had the opportunity to visit a high production pine mill that produces 95 million board feet of dimensional lumber each year out of small diameter trees that are only about 30 years old (they grow trees a little faster in Virginia). I also visited a college campus that burns sawdust to heat the entire campus buildings.

There are still areas in Missouri where sawmill owners are burning their slabs and wasting sawdust. I am interested in finding ways to see this residue used. I would like to see some niche markets open up that would utilize wood chips and sawdust in these areas. If anyone has any ideas on how to better utilize some of these products I would be glad to hear from you.

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

July-Sept., 2006, Vol. 16 No. 3
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$1,875	$1,875	$1,875	$835	$3,335	4 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	$75	$75	$75	$135	$60	2 Int. - MBF	1
Eastern Redcedar	$135	$135	$135	-	-	2 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$135	$70	$125	$110	$75	25 Int. - MBF	4
Mixed Hardwoods	$190	$100	$170	$70	$205	64 Int. - MBF	4
Oak (mixed species)	$190	$100	$165	$135	$125	1,246 Int. - MBF	9
Post Oak	$200	$70	$150	$110	$80	92 Int. - MBF	7
Red oak (group)	$300	$80	$185	$205	$180	2,006 Int. - MBF	15
Shortleaf Pine	$135	$100	$105	$90	$10	74 Int. - MBF	3
Walnut, Black	$625	$625	$625	$605	$620	11 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$250	$120	$180	$185	$165	289 Int. - MBF	10

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$1,875	$1,875	$1,875	-	$3,335	4 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	$75	$75	$75	-	$60	2 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$70	$70	$70	$90	$85	2 Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$100	$100	$100	-	-	24 Int. - MBF	1
Post Oak	$120	$70	$115	$90	-	29 Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$120	$80	$100	$90	$105	75 Int. - MBF	3
Walnut, Black	$625	$625	$625	-	$620	11 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$210	$120	$170	$90	$125	81 Int. - MBF	3

Southwest Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Oak (mixed species)	$110	$110	$110	-	$155	123 Int. - MBF	1

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Eastern Redcedar	$135	$135	$135	-	-	2 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$135	$100	$130	$125	$75	23 Int. - MBF	3
Mixed Hardwoods	$190	$100	$170	$85	$225	64 Int. - MBF	4
Oak (mixed species)	$190	$100	$170	$195	$115	1,099 Int. - MBF	7
Post Oak	$200	$125	$165	$115	$80	64 Int. - MBF	5
Red oak (group)	$300	$125	$185	$215	$190	1,931 Int. - MBF	12
Shortleaf Pine	$135	$100	$105	$90	$10	74 Int. - MBF	3
White oak (group)	$250	$125	$190	$220	$180	208 Int. - MBF	7

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed "# of Rpts." to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be ("# of Rpts." refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 20 timber sales containing 4,116 MBF located throughout the state.

Editor's Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the "Conservation Assistance Contractors" link.

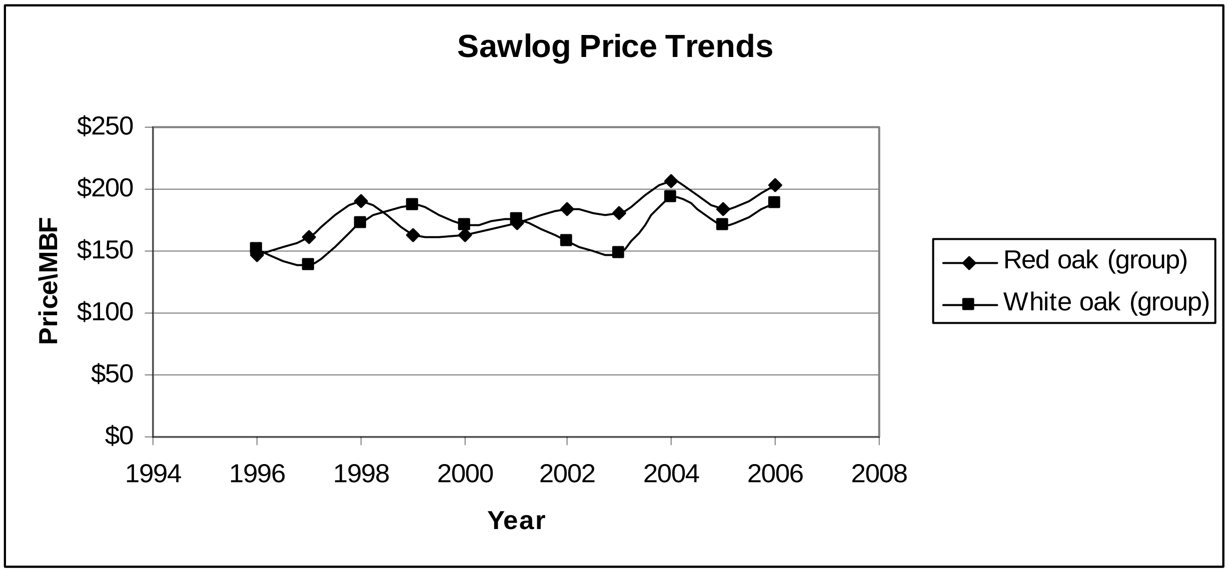
Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

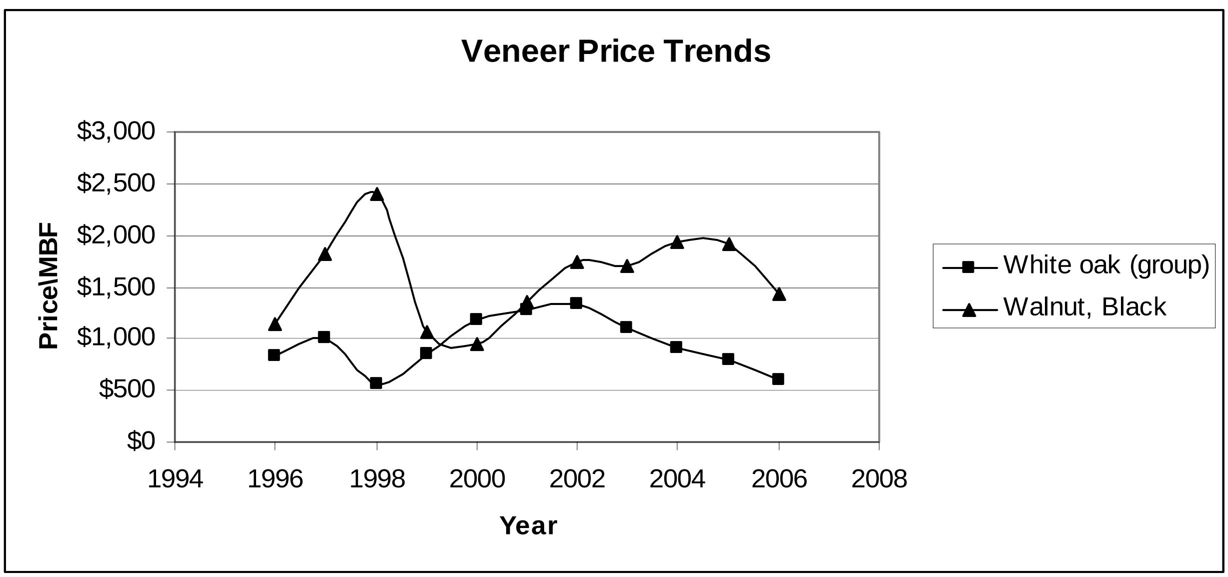
Note: A "sale" often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the "# of Rpts." (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Timber Price Trends based on data collected over the last decade.





News from Missouri's Neighbors

Timber Mart-South reports that south-wide drought conditions led to lower average stumpage prices for all major timber products in the 2nd quarter of 2006. Prices were lower than last quarter and lower than the 2nd quarter of 2005. This seems to follow a trend of weak second quarters. For the past four years generally lower prices April through June compared to January through March.

Across the South, Timber Mart-South reports, mixed hardwood sawtimber stumpage prices fell modestly, 1.9 percent for the quarter and 1.6 percent from a year ago. A significant downward trend in red oak stumpage prices continued, according to reporters. Prices for other hardwood sawtimber species also fell. Hardwood pulpwood was the biggest loser in a down quarter, dropping 18.1 percent from last quarter and 23.2 percent from a year ago.

The Tennessee Forest Products Bulletin notes that red oak has been moving slowly but continuing to move. The lower log prices for much of Tennessee reflect the lower prices for red oak lumber. White oak continues to remain solid for both domestic and export production. Prices have moved up somewhat to reflect that in white oak lumber. Poplar has remained strong also. Some markets for maple have filled up as the supply has been up and down because mills have been cutting their logs to keep them from staining. Ash has slowed as well.

The Mississippi Timber Report states that hardwood mills had more than enough logs to meet demand during the quarter, but demand for oak logs for flooring markets kept high-grade hardwood sawtimber stumpage prices steady. Mixed hardwood sawtimber dropped 6.6% or $1.88/ton to average $26.37/ton. High-grade material held steady increasing 0.1% or $0.04/ton to average $30.86/ton while low-grade material decreased by $2.58/ton or 10.3% to average $22.47/ton. Hardwood pulpwood dropped $1.70/ton or 23.2% to average $5.64/ton. Flooring oak continues to be in demand and needs remain steady. Ties and pallet cants are strong and look to stay that way for a while.

Sources: Timber Mart South, Tennessee Forest Products Bulletin, Mississippi Timber Report

Housing and Timber

The Seattle Times reports that the cooling housing market is sawing into lumber prices. Industry data firm Random Lengths reported late Friday that its framing-lumber composite index fell to $301 per thousand board feet for the week, off more than $100 from $403 a year earlier and down from $305 in the prior week. The structural-panel composite index, representing prices for plywood and oriented strand board (OSB), suffered a steeper decline, falling to $274 per thousand square feet, off from $499 a year ago and $298 a week earlier. The indexes have been in decline since about the fourth quarter of 2005, but the downturn has become steeper in the past couple of months. With current prices close to production costs for many sawmills and plywood manufacturing plants, the magnitude of the price drop has surprised many industry analysts.

The rapid pace of the decline in wood-products prices could add an element of adventure for investors this month when forest-product companies begin reporting third-quarter earnings and their outlooks for the fourth quarter.

Sources: The Seattle Times, Random Lengths

The U.S. and Canada – Softwood "Agreement"?

The British Columbia Lumber Trade Council said late on Wednesday it had asked the Canadian Trade Minister for an extension of the deadline in order to bring it into effect in "an orderly fashion."

"In order to satisfy all the requirements needed to bring the agreement into effect, we are asking the government of Canada for a limited extension of time," said John Allan, president of the lumber council.

Emerson said in a radio interview that he is trying to be flexible on the timing but noted that "everybody's keen to get the thing done." Many firms in the lumber industry are desperate for cash as a U.S. housing slowdown has caused timber prices to slide.

"It should be addressed in the coming days," Emerson's press secretary Jennifer Chiu told Reuters.

On September 12, the two countries signed the seven-year deal that aims to end the longstanding trade dispute affecting $7.4 billion annually in

Canadian softwood exports to the United States.

Ottawa had promised to start collecting an export tax on October 1 that would replace U.S. duties, which the Canadians said were unfair.

The deal will refund about $4.3 billion of the $5.3 billion Canadian softwood producers have paid in duties, a process Emerson has said should be over by the end of the year.

Canada supplies about a third of the softwood lumber -- such as spruce, pine and fir -- used in the U.S. market, mainly in housing construction and renovation.

Sources:Reuters

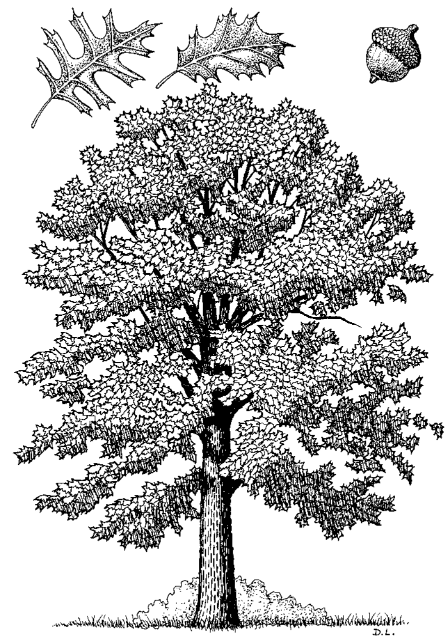
News from Missouri

Sometime between January and May of 2007, the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) will be visiting all sawmills in Missouri doing the *Timber Product Output* survey. This survey helps us keep track of how much timber is coming out of Missouri's forest lands. It also allows us to compare how much timber is grown versus how much was harvested. So far across the state, Missouri is growing more timber than is harvested. This does not mean that your county is growing more timber than is harvested but it is a statewide average. The survey will consist of a paper form in which the MDC Forester will ask the sawmill owner a series of questions about volume harvested and how far the product was hauled to the mill. If you remember filling out a sawmill survey in the past from MDC it probably was the *Timber Product Output* survey. When the forester comes by with the survey, I would appreciate your cooperation in filling out this survey. It really helps me and others when questions are being asked about what is happening with the timber resources in Missouri. Another way this survey helps is it answers question when prospective new mill owners want to relocate in an area. I can tell the new mill owner how much potential timber or mill residue is available for their operation.

I have been to 46 sawmills since July. I have had some good discussions with these mill owners. I really appreciate the time the sawmillers took from their busy schedule explaining their ideas and concerns. It is amazing how many sawmills there are in Missouri (approximately 458 mills) and how the mills are contributing to the local economy.

I want to thank all the loggers that are participating in the Professional Timber Harvester's (PTH) program from the Missouri Forest Products Association. I was skeptical of this training back when I was logging. Since my logging days, I decided there are many items presented in the PTH training that helped me do a better job both concerning personal safety and low residual tree damage. Landowners are starting to request PTH trained loggers because they too are interested in seeing the best job done on their property. If anyone is interested in attending a PTH training class or wants to see a list of trained loggers please visit MFPA's website at www.moforest.org or call them at 573-634-3252.

As always, please call if you have any comments on how I could enhance the Missouri Department of Conservation's Forest Products Program. John Tuttle (573)522-4115 ext: 3304.



Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

Oct.-Dec., 2006, Vol. 16 No. 4
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$4,585	$1,250	$2,370	$1,875	$1,415	42	Int. - MBF	17
White oak (group)	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	-	$835	30	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$135	$85	$130	$75	$100	17	Int. - MBF	2
Cottonwood	$50	$40	$45	-	$70	25	Int. - MBF	2
Hackberry	$70	$40	$50	$60	$85	4	Int. - MBF	2
Hickory	$135	$100	$120	$125	$185	90	Int. - MBF	4
Mixed Hardwoods	$165	$70	$115	$170	$70	114	Int. - MBF	7
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$90	$135	$165	$145	516	Int. - MBF	8
Post Oak	$170	$80	$135	$150	$170	293	Int. - MBF	5
Red oak (group)	$325	$100	$190	$185	$190	1,828	Int. - MBF	10
Soft Maple	$250	$250	$250	-	$180	64	Int. - MBF	2
Sycamore	$70	$70	$70	-	$90	3	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$915	$585	$730	$625	$790	83	Int. - MBF	13
White oak (group)	$295	$150	$205	$180	$190	212	Int. - MBF	6
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$340	$340	$340	-	-	120	Int. - MBF	1

North Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$3,125	$1,665	$2,055	-	$1,195	6	Int. - MBF	3
White oak (group)	$1,000	$1,000	$1,000	-	$835	30	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$135	$135	$135	-	$100	16	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$135	$135	$135	-	$125	24	Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$120	$100	$115	-	$65	96	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$100	$100	$100	-	$100	53	Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$165	$165	$165	-	$160	25	Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$250	$250	$250	-	$195	14	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$835	$585	$650	-	$400	10	Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$150	$150	$150	-	$155	53	Int. - MBF	1
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$340	$340	$340	-	-	120	Int. - MBF	1

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$4,585	$1,250	$2,590	$1,875	$1,990	30 Int. - MBF	13
Sawlogs							
Ash	$85	$85	$85	$75	$85	2 Int. - MBF	1
Cottonwood	$50	$40	$45	-	$75	25 Int. - MBF	2
Hackberry	$70	$40	$50	$60	-	4 Int. - MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	$70	$70	$70	-	$65	2 Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$120	$120	$120	$100	$85	206 Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$250	$250	$250	-	$115	50 Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$70	$70	$70	-	$95	3 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$915	$585	$780	$625	$765	44 Int. - MBF	6

Southwest Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$1,585	$1,585	$1,585	-	$690	6 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Oak (mixed species)	$170	$90	$115	$110	$160	129 Int. - MBF	4
Post Oak	$80	$80	$80	-	-	41 Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$220	$100	$185	-	-	97 Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$900	$615	$675	-	$990	29 Int. - MBF	5

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Hickory	$125	$100	$115	$130	$185	66 Int. - MBF	3
Mixed Hardwoods	$165	$100	$120	$170	$165	16 Int. - MBF	4
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$190	$200	$170	$180	128 Int. - MBF	2
Post Oak	$170	$120	$145	$165	$170	252 Int. - MBF	4
Red oak (group)	$325	$120	$190	$185	$190	1,707 Int. - MBF	7
White oak (group)	$295	$160	$225	$190	$200	159 Int. - MBF	5

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed “# of Rpts.” to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. (“# of Rpts.” refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 34 timber sales containing 3,871 MBF located throughout the state.

Editor’s Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you.

You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the “Conservation Assistance Contractors” link.

Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

Note: A “sale” often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the “# of Rpts.” (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

News from Missouri's Neighbors

Nebraska reports that demand for White Oak is still running high, due in large part to brisk offshore activity-. Log deck information is somewhat varied, though few sawmills report losing production to a lack of logs.

In Tennessee, the wet fall had many mills wondering about the winter and log supply. Many are low on inventory for this time of year, when the yards should be nearly full going into the wet winter weather. Log prices are mixed this quarter as some mills have raised prices to encourage log flow and others reduced log prices to respond to the lower lumber markets. The prices on a number of species are now more in line with each of the regions across the state. Red oak and the maples have filled the pipeline while white oak, walnut, flooring oak and railroad ties continue to be in demand.

TimberMart South relates that South-wide average stumpage prices decreased in the 3rd Quarter for all five major timber products. Sawtimber markets softened. Prices were lower compared to both the previous quarter and the 3rd Quarter 2005. Pulpwood markets remained weak. Hardwood prices also fell. The mixed hardwood sawtimber average average was the lowest since the 2nd Quarter of 2004. Hardwood pulpwood was down more than 25 percent since the same period one year ago, and hit the lowest level since 3rd Quarter 2002.

Sources: Nebraska Timber Talk, Tennessee Forest Products Bulletin, Timber Mart South.

Experts say timber prices drop due to Katrina-damaged trees

Mississippi's timber harvest value is down 9.6 percent this year because the market is flooded with trees that were damaged during Hurricane Katrina, according to experts. Marc Measells, a research associate with Mississippi State University's Department of Forestry, puts the state's timber harvest value at $1.3 billion for 2006. That's down from $1.45 billion last year.

The estimate is based on timber severance tax collections and timber prices through October. Measells said the findings are striking, given that from 2004 to 2005 the value had increased nearly 16 percent. Forestry is Mississippi's second largest commodity just behind poultry, which has an estimated value of almost $2 billion, he said.

Average prices for pine sawtimber dropped by 6.3 percent through October, Measells said.

Mixed hardwood sawtimber declined by almost 10 percent this year, while oak sawtimber dropped by nearly 14 percent. Pine pulpwood prices dipped more than 9 percent and hardwood pulpwood prices fell 18.6 percent for the year.

Measells said Hurricane Katrina disrupted lumber production and timber markets, and when the harvest resumed, landowners quickly sold off damaged trees, flooding the market.

"As a result, the standing and delivered timber prices have fallen significantly across the state in 2006," he said.

Glenn Hughes, an MSU Extension forestry professor in south Mississippi, said the housing market historically has influenced timber prices. That continues to be true despite increased use of imported wood, he said.

Most of the wood produced in Mississippi remains in the South, and much of it is used for residential purposes, Hughes said. "That means housing has a huge impact on our market and therefore on timber prices," he said.

Hughes said single-family home sales in the South declined in the first three quarters of 2006, compared to the same quarter in 2005.

Sources: Hattiesburg American, Associated Press.

The latest installment From Canada

Legislation implementing the Softwood Lumber Agreement was approved by the Canadian parliament on Friday, December 15. "This important event is the last step in implementing the Softwood Lumber Agreement between Canada and the U.S. and marks a tremendous achievement for Canada's New Government," said David Emerson, minister of international trade. To date, more than 98.9% of refunds authorized by the agreement have been processed. - 12/18/2006

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit dismissed a complaint by the Coalition for Fair Lumber Imports claiming that the NAFTA Chapter 19 dispute settlement panel system violates the U.S. Constitution, according to a press release from the Coalition. The court dismissed the case on technical jurisdictional grounds relating to the settlement of the softwood lumber dispute with Canada. "The Coalition remains confident about the validity of its case, and the court did not call into question the merits of our showing that the NAFTA Chapter 19 system is unconstitutional," said Coalition Chairman Steve Swanson.

Sources: Random Lengths

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

News from Missouri

By John Tuttle

There are two issues to be aware of this quarter. We will be doing the Timber Product Output survey and there is quarantine on ash trees in place in several neighboring states.

The quarantine on ash trees is a result of the emerald ash borer. Emerald ash borer probably arrived in the United States on solid wood packing material carried in cargo ships or airplanes originating in its native Asia. This borer tunnels underneath the bark of the ash tree. The result of the insect's tunneling is that it girdles the tree which kills it.

Currently there is a quarantine on moving ash out of the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Portions of the states of Michigan and Maryland also have the quarantine on ash. Also, the previously mentioned states are banning the movement of all species of firewood out of these states or the quarantine areas. There are ways to move ash out of these states by doing so through special compliance agreements or permits and obeying the special regulations.

For more information please see the following web-site www.emeraldashborer.info/ or call the Missouri Department of Agriculture 573-751-5505 or if in Illinois call 815-787-5476.

The Missouri Department of Conservation is also in the process of conducting the Timber Product Output survey. We conduct this survey of mill owners every three years to learn what the harvest pressure is on Missouri's forest.

This information helps forest industry greatly by allowing potential new mill owners the ability to select areas where few mills are located when starting up a mill. It also helps the Forest Products Program within the Missouri Department of Conservation by providing a tool to determine where the harvest pressure is so good advice can be given to industry and landowners.

One thing to expect if you are a mill owner is that a Missouri Department of Conservation forester will stop by to ask you a series of questions concerning your production amounts. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions and also request to be in the Directory of Primary Wood Processors if you want some free advertisement.

If you have any questions call me (John Tuttle) at 573-522-4115 ext 3304.

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

Jan.-March, 2007, Vol. 17 No. 1
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$3,000	$1,140	$2,530	$2,370	$1,575	96	Int. - MBF	18
Sawlogs								
Ash	$190	$60	$105	$130	$115	6	Int. - MBF	3
Cottonwood	$40	$40	$40	$45	$85	6	Int. - MBF	1
Elm	$190	$40	$65	$35	$130	4	Int. - MBF	2
Hackberry	$90	$60	$70	$50	$75	11	Int. - MBF	2
Hard Maple	$190	$190	$190	-	$100	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$215	$50	$215	$120	$180	57,648	Int. - MBF	9
Mixed Hardwoods	$180	$50	$170	$115	$90	174	Int. - MBF	5
Oak (mixed species)	$235	$75	$190	$135	$140	796	Int. - MBF	12
Post Oak	$200	$75	$160	$135	$180	17,095	Int. - MBF	9
Red oak (group)	$290	$85	$265	$190	$225	112,964	Int. - MBF	17
Shortleaf Pine	$130	$75	$105	-	$90	66	Int. - MBF	3
Soft Maple	$190	$175	$180	$250	$145	47	Int. - MBF	4
Walnut, Black	$1,085	$175	$720	$730	$345	122	Int. - MBF	19
White oak (group)	$290	$85	$210	$205	$200	6,971	Int. - MBF	11

North Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,500	$1,250	$1,990	$2,055	$940	29	Int. - MBF	8
Sawlogs								
Mixed Hardwoods	$180	$65	$175	$115	$55	162	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$75	$75	$75	$100	$130	5	Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$190	$190	$190	$250	$140	7	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$835	$425	$660	$650	$480	63	Int. - MBF	7

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,600	$1,140	$2,015	$2,590	$1,855	17	Int. - MBF	9
Sawlogs								
Ash	$90	$60	$75	$85	$70	4	Int. - MBF	2
Cottonwood	$40	$40	$40	$45	$25	6	Int. - MBF	1
Elm	$40	$40	$40	$35	-	3	Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$90	$60	$70	$50	$70	11	Int. - MBF	2
Hickory	$90	$50	$80	-	$100	7	Int. - MBF	2
Mixed Hardwoods	$90	$90	$90	$70	-	9	Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$175	$85	$120	$120	$210	157	Int. - MBF	5
Red oak (group)	$100	$85	$90	-	$100	64	Int. - MBF	3
Soft Maple	$175	$175	$175	$250	$185	40	Int. - MBF	3
Walnut, Black	$1,085	$415	$805	$780	$495	51	Int. - MBF	10
White oak (group)	$90	$85	$90	-	$115	82	Int. - MBF	2

Southwest Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000	$1,585	-	51	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Oak (mixed species)	$160	$130	$145	$115	$115	37	Int. - MBF	3
Walnut, Black	$750	$750	$750	$675	$750	6	Int. - MBF	1

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Ash	$190	$190	$190	-	$145	2	Int. - MBF	1
Elm	$190	$190	$190	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hard Maple	$190	$190	$190	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$215	$75	$215	$115	$205	57,641	Int. - MBF	7
Mixed Hardwoods	$75	$50	$60	$120	$180	3	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$235	$185	$210	$200	$145	598	Int. - MBF	3
Post Oak	$200	$75	$160	$145	$185	17,095	Int. - MBF	9
Red oak (group)	$290	$150	$265	$190	$230	112,900	Int. - MBF	14
Shortleaf Pine	$130	$75	$105	-	$90	66	Int. - MBF	3
Walnut, Black	$175	$175	$175	-	$255	2	Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$290	$120	$215	$225	$225	6,889	Int. - MBF	9

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed “# of Rpts.” to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. (“# of Rpts.” refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 35 timber sales containing 195,852 MBF located throughout the state.

Editor’s Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the “Conservation Assistance Contractors” link.

Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

Note: A “sale” often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the “# of Rpts.” (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

News from Missouri's Neighbors

Nebraska reports that there are competitive market conditions for species and grades of lumber. Demand for items such as hard maple and red oak is limited, backing up inventory through the supply chain to the sawmill. The buildup is pressuring prices. The demand for soft maple remains solid, particularly for Sel and Btr grades. The strong demand from domestic and off-shore markets is driving a brisk business for white oak. Log decks are low across much of the territory. Even though weather conditions have been more conducive to logging in recent weeks, poor pulpwood markets could constrict future logging activity.

Tennessee reports that the market has been mixed, some species are hot and others are nearly dead. Red oak upper grades are very difficult to sell at almost any price and hard maple is very slow. White oak and walnut are very much in demand, just cannot get enough of either to meet possible orders. The lower grade markets are not as good as they were, but steady. The tie market continues to be very strong.

The slumping housing market is the primary reason for the slowing of lumber demand. Housing starts were at a high of 2.265 million units in January 2006 and have dropped to 1.408 million units a year later, a drop of 38 percent. Diesel is about the same as it was a year ago and has only recently begun to creep upward !!

The winter has not been a difficult one from a weather standpoint, not much cold weather, warm in fact a few times during the last few weeks. The mills in the eastern part of the state seem to have plenty of logs and as you go further west, they have fewer. Wet weather has hurt some mills, but doesn't seem to have caused any unwanted shutdowns.

Timber Mart South's latest reports states that south-wide average stumpage prices dipped further for both pine sawtimber and chip-n-saw in the 4th quarter of 2006. Pulpwood prices increased slightly. Prices for all five major products were below the averages of one year ago.

Stumpage prices for both mixed hardwood sawtimber and hardwood pulpwood recovered slightly this quarter from declines earlier in the year. Both averages were about $0.50 per ton above prices last quarter, while still below prices of one year ago.

Sources: Nebraska Timber Talk, Tennessee Forest Products Bulletin, Timber Mart South.

Washington: Proposed bill seeks to curb trade in illegal timber

It could be your new hardwood floor or coffee table with a rich mahogany hue. Although the wood may look good, there is a strong chance it came from timber harvested illegally in places such as Honduras, Indonesia or Peru, labor and environmental groups say.

Now a bipartisan group of congress members wants to crack down on illegal logging around the world. A bill introduced Tuesday would ban U.S. imports of wood products derived from illegally harvested timber.

Much like the movie "Blood Diamond" which portrays diamonds as fueling a brutal civil war in West Africa, the logging bill is aimed at reminding U.S. consumers to consider where their new bedroom dresser or hardwood floor comes from, said Rep. Earl Blumenauer, D-Ore., the bill's chief sponsor.

"Illegal logging is a problem that crosses national boundaries to affect communities, companies and ecosystems alike" Blumenauer said, adding that he hopes to "raise the profile" of illegal logging so that consumers pressure retailers to reveal the source of furniture and flooring, just as many do with so-called fair-trade coffee. As much as 30 percent of U.S. hardwood imports are from suspicious or illegal sources, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission. Much of the wood is sent to China, where it is processed at low cost and then exported to the United States and other countries.

Illegal logging costs U.S. companies as much as $1 billion a year in lost exports and reduced prices for timber products, according to the American Forest and Paper Association, a trade group that represents the wood products industry.

The logging bill, co-sponsored by Reps. Robert Wexler, D-Fla., and Jerry Weller, R-Ill., would extend the Lacey Act -- which prohibits importation of wildlife taken in violation of conservation laws -- to apply to wood and timber products.

The measure would ban the import, export, purchase or sale of timber products made in violation of any domestic or foreign law or international treaty.

The forest and paper association stopped short of endorsing the bill but said it welcomes increased interest shown by Congress in the issue.

Earlier this month, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., asked the International Trade Commission to investigate Chinese trade practices he said are hurting U.S. hardwood plywood manufacturers.

Last month, the U.S. Trade Representative filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization targeting Chinese subsidies of illegally harvested hardwood.

The forest and paper association warned that laws targeting U.S. imports could increase costs for legitimate producers while decreasing risks associated with illegal production.

"It is essential that policy responses do not create perverse incentives by raising the costs of 'legal' forest products, thus making illegal logging even more profitable," the group said.

A host of environmental, labor and business groups endorsed the bill, including the Environmental Investigation Agency, Sierra Club, World Wildlife Fund, Defenders of Wildlife, Natural Resources Defense Council, United Steel Workers and Wood Flooring International.

Sources: Associated Press.

News from Missouri

Currently Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) foresters are visiting sawmills in Missouri to find out how much timber is being cut on an annual bases. MDC foresters are about 50% done with the Timber Product Output survey and have received good cooperation from mill owners. I really appreciate the mills that have provided this information.

I have been to 25 Missouri sawmills this past quarter. All of these mills seemed concerned about the slumping red oak prices. The railroad tie buying yard that I had a chance to talk too seemed optimistic about the tie markets. Right now a 7” x 9” tie is bringing about $21.50.

I have been getting a few calls from brokers wanting to buy black walnut. These brokers want to purchase walnut for the Chinese market. From talking to mill owners and foresters and observing the price reports, walnut is selling for a high price which is creating a major demand for standing timber.

The hot topic in the state right now is woody biomass. Currently there is legislation in the General Assembly that has been proposed that would make it possible for cellulosic ethanol plants to receive the incentives that corn ethanol plants are getting. This legislation would allow incentives to be paid to New Generations Coops. A New Generation Coop must be 51% producer-owned in order to qualify for the incentives. If a cellulosic ethanol plant does come to Missouri it would provide a market for small diameter wood and would enhance the markets for waste wood products. The issue that most concerns me is that the wood is harvested in a sustainable manner.

Remember to give me a call if you have ideas on how to enhance the forest products program. If you know of a project or have an idea that could provide a market to the forest products industry give me a call. If looking for a buyer for your standing timber either give me a call or call your local forester. John Tuttle (573) 522-4115, extension 3304.

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

April-June, 2007, Vol. 17 No. 2
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,085	$985	$1,275	$2,530	$835	14	Int. - MBF	3
White oak (group)	$1,040	$1,040	$1,040	-	$855	2	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$115	$115	$115	$105	$135	23	Int. - MBF	1
Cottonwood	$85	$85	$85	$40	$65	38	Int. - MBF	1
Hard Maple	$100	$100	$100	$190	$290	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$110	$110	$110	$215	$110	2	Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$100	$85	$95	$170	$70	9	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$205	$150	$195	$190	$135	534	Int. - MBF	2
Post Oak	$115	$115	$115	$160	$110	-	Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$195	$85	$150	$265	$205	217	Int. - MBF	4
Shortleaf Pine	$70	$70	$70	$105	$90	3	Int. - MBF	1
Soft Maple	$210	$210	$210	$180	-	19	Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$100	$100	$100	-	$85	19	Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$835	$585	$810	$720	$605	45	Int. - MBF	4
White oak (group)	$195	$120	$180	$210	$185	170	Int. - MBF	3
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$275	$275	$275	-	$290	24	Int. - MBF	1

North Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,085	$1,175	$1,305	$1,990	$835	13	Int. - MBF	2
Sawlogs								
Oak (mixed species)	$150	$150	$150	$75	$85	77	Int. - MBF	1

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$985	$985	$985	$2,015	-	1 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$1,040	$1,040	$1,040	-	-	2 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	$115	$115	$115	$75	-	23 Int. - MBF	1
Cottonwood	$85	$85	$85	$40	-	38 Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$100	$85	$95	$90	$90	9 Int. - MBF	2
Post Oak	$115	$115	$115	-	$90	- Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$150	$85	$150	$90	$90	51 Int. - MBF	2
Soft Maple	$210	$210	$210	$175	-	19 Int. - MBF	1
Sycamore	$100	$100	$100	-	-	19 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$835	$585	$720	$805	-	4 Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$185	$185	$185	$90	$90	83 Int. - MBF	1
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	$275	$275	$275	-	-	24 Int. - MBF	1

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Hard Maple	$100	$100	$100	$190	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$110	$110	$110	$215	$125	2 Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$205	$205	$205	$210	$195	457 Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$195	$125	$150	$265	$215	166 Int. - MBF	2
Shortleaf Pine	$70	$70	$70	$105	$90	3 Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$195	$120	$175	$215	$220	87 Int. - MBF	2

Southwest Stumpage Prices

No reports were received this quarter from the Southwest area.

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed “# of Rpts.” to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. (“# of Rpts.” refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 8 timber sales containing 1,121 MBF located throughout the state.

Editor’s Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the “Conservation Assistance Contractors” link.

Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

Note: A “sale” often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the “# of Rpts.” (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

2007 Farm Bill

Large tracts of private forest are at risk of falling into mismanagement, subdivision or being sold for development; Brett J Butler, research forester with US Forest Service Family Forest Research Center, says situation could jeopardize things like wood used to build homes, jobs, and clean water and fresh air; nearly 60 percent of nation's forests are privately owned, majority by families and individuals and most of these owners are 55 or older; huge swath of forest land is about to change hands as aging landowners pass land to heirs or buyers; high taxes are top reason heirs are selling land; industry officials hope reauthorization of 2007 Farm Bill currently being drafted by House Agriculture Committee will provide incentive programs to help family forest owners bear costs of maintaining their lands.

Source: New York Times.

Missouri Forest Inventory and Analysis Report Available

The first completed 5-year annual inventory of Missouri's forests reports more than 14.6 million acres of forest land. Softwood forests make up 4 percent of the total forest land area; oak/hickory forest types make up about three-fourths of the total hardwood forest land area. Missouri's forests have continued to increase in volume, with all-live tree volume on forest land in Missouri an estimated 18 billion cubic feet compared to 9 billion cubic feet in 1972. All-live tree biomass on forest land in Missouri amounted to 573 million dry tons in 1999-2003. Almost 9 percent was in small trees, 74 percent was in growing-stock trees, and 17 percent was in non-growing-stock trees. Softwood growth was 44.1 million cubic feet per year and hardwood growth was 585.3 million cubic feet per year. Oak species constitute roughly three-fourths of the volume and three-fourths of the harvest. Total net all-live volume of oaks on timberland increased by 24 percent between 1989 and 2003. More than 82 percent of Missouri's forest land is held by private landowners.

Field work and analysis were conducted by the Missouri Department of Conservation and the United States Forest Service. For more detail or a copy of the report, please visit the United States Forest Service web site (http://www.fs.fed.us/).

Firewood Pests?

Most of us wouldn't pick up hitchhikers along the road, but many of us unwittingly take them camping with us. Tree-killing pests such as emerald ash borers, Asian longhorned beetles and gypsy moths can hide in the wood we bring for campfires. It's easy to reduce the spread of these hitchhiking pests. Here's how.

Missouri has always had its share of forest pests. Historically, these native insects and diseases posed little threat to our healthy forests because for thousands of years our native trees and other plants have evolved alongside them. Whenever a native pest developed a new method to attack, our forests responded by evolving new defense mechanisms. Non-native pests throw off this natural balance by bringing with them new methods of attack unfamiliar to our native trees and plants. Because our forests have not had time to evolve adequate defenses, they can become easy prey for exotic invaders. Take for instance the emerald ash borer. This metallic green beetle probably entered southeast Michigan as an unwanted hitchhiker in wooden packing materials used to ship goods from its native home in China and eastern Asia. The wormlike larvae of this tiny but destructive insect tunnel through native ash trees, eventually killing each tree they infest. To date, emerald ash borers have killed more than 15 million ash trees in Michigan and hundreds of thousands more in Indiana, Ohio and Canada. They haven't made their way to Missouri, yet, but they appeared near Chicago in June of 2006.

One way to keep emerald ash borers and other destructive pests out of Missouri's healthy forests is to avoid transporting firewood long distances. How far is too far? There isn't an easy answer. Moving firewood a few miles from your farm to your home should never be a problem. And at this time, if you avoid transporting firewood across state lines, you should be okay. However, as economies and trade routes become more globalized, opportunities for exotic pests to hitchhike to Missouri increase. If these pests gain a toehold in Missouri, simply moving firewood from one end of the state to the other could cause problems. In all instances, the best policy is to obtain firewood from a local source. If you brought firewood in from out of state, burn all of it as soon as possible. This will kill any pests that could be hiding in the wood.

Another thing we can do to keep Missouri's forests healthy is to watch out for exotic hitchhikers. Keep in mind that Missouri has its share of native pests, so finding a bug tunneling through your firewood isn't necessarily cause for alarm. Learning to separate the benign native bugs from the destructive exotic bugs is key to early detection of a potential problem.

Early detection is useful only when the problem is contained and eradicated. To help with this effort contact the Missouri Departments of Conservation or Agriculture should you find a suspect insect. Collect a sample by trapping the insect in a zippered plastic bag. Place the bag in the freezer for several days to kill the insect then mail the sample in a sturdy container (35mm film canisters work well) to the address below. Be sure to include your contact information and the date and location where you captured the sample.

Rob Lawrence
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robert.lawrence@mdc.mo.gov

News from Missouri

Recently the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) requested from foresters across the state nominations for the *MDC Logger-of-the-Year Award*. There were several loggers nominated for the awards.

MDC awards one Regional Logger of the Year Award to each of the eight MDC regions. Out of the eight regional winners one winner is chosen for the MDC State Logger-of-the-Year Award.

This year five regional winners were chosen. These winners were Tom Heidlege, Southwest Region; Roger Whetstine, Northwest Region; Buster Logging, Northeast Region; Dustin Lindgren, Southeast Region; and Ron Tuttle, Ozark Region. Each of these loggers were awarded the MDC Regional Logger-of-the-Year Award based on the following criteria: how well they carried out low impact logging, how well they worked with landowners and foresters, they could not have had any recent history of problems dealing with landowners, they had to be practicing safe working habits, and they must have been through the Professional Timber Harvesters course and still be current with the training.

After the loggers were chosen for the Regional awards, a five person panel was formed to determine the MDC State Logger-of-the-Year winner. Ron Tuttle, Ozark Region winner, was chosen the State winner. Ron will be presented the MDC State Logger-of-the-Year Award at the Missouri Forest Products Association's summer meeting on July 28, 2007.

Ron Tuttle and his brothers, Gary and Don, have logged for most of their lives. They live in Shannon County near Summersville, MO. The Tuttle Logging crew was nominated by a Pioneer Forest forester and by a Missouri Department of Conservation forester. Each forester in their nomination explained that the Tuttle Logging crew really does an outstanding job taking care of the remaining trees on site. The foresters also explained how it was a pleasure to work with this crew and how they were willing to do what needed to be done to make the logging job a success.

I feel that there are many loggers in Missouri that do not get the recognition they deserve for doing a good job protecting the natural resources during timber harvesting. These awards were created to give these loggers the credit they deserved.

If you are looking for a buyer for your standing timber either give me a call or call your local forester. John Tuttle (573)522-4115, extension 3304.

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MISSOURI TIMBER PRICE TRENDS

July-Sept., 2007, Vol. 17 No. 3
Missouri Department of Conservation, Forestry Division

Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$2,850	$2,850	$2,850	$1,275	$1,875	- Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Ash	$300	$105	$105	$115	$75	21,543 Int. - MBF	2
Cherry	$170	$170	$170	-	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Hard Maple	$170	$170	$170	$100	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$170	$100	$150	$110	$125	2,537 Int. - MBF	4
Mixed Hardwoods	$140	$75	$75	$95	$170	105,817 Int. - MBF	5
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$90	$150	$195	$165	389,211 Int. - MBF	6
Post Oak	$150	$100	$150	$115	$150	5,417 Int. - MBF	3
Red oak (group)	$350	$115	$215	$150	$185	111,785 Int. - MBF	6
Shortleaf Pine	$90	$90	$90	$70	$105	156,385 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$1,040	$540	$710	$810	$625	14 Int. - MBF	4
White oak (group)	$300	$125	$300	$180	$180	9,965 Int. - MBF	4
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	$375	$290	$315	$275	-	32 Int. - MBF	2

North Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Sawlogs							
Hickory	$125	$125	$125	-	-	6 Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$90	$85	$90	-	-	227 Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$100	$100	$100	$150	-	58 Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$165	$165	$165	-	-	8 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$1,040	$610	$690	$815	-	12 Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$125	$125	$125	-	-	20 Int. - MBF	1
Stave Logs							
White oak (group)	$290	$290	$290	-	-	24 Int. - MBF	1

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Veneer								
Walnut, Black	$2,850	$2,850	$2,850	$985	$1,875	-	Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs								
Ash	$300	$300	$300	$115	$75	-	Int. - MBF	1
Cherry	$170	$170	$170	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hard Maple	$170	$170	$170	-	-	-	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$170	$100	$165	-	$70	1	Int. - MBF	2
Oak (mixed species)	$170	$90	$90	-	$100	66	Int. - MBF	2
Post Oak	$100	$100	$100	$115	$115	-	Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$350	$115	$160	$150	$100	5	Int. - MBF	2
Walnut, Black	$1,000	$540	$900	$720	$625	1	Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$150	$150	$150	$185	$170	5	Int. - MBF	1
Stave Logs								
White oak (group)	$375	$375	$375	$275	-	8	Int. - MBF	1

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.		# of Rpts.
Sawlogs								
Ash	$105	$105	$105	-	-	21,542	Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$150	$150	$150	$110	$130	2,530	Int. - MBF	1
Mixed Hardwoods	$140	$75	$75	-	$170	105,591	Int. - MBF	3
Oak (mixed species)	$210	$100	$150	$205	$170	389,088	Int. - MBF	3
Post Oak	$150	$140	$150	-	$165	5,416	Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$220	$170	$215	$150	$185	111,772	Int. - MBF	3
Shortleaf Pine	$90	$90	$90	$70	$105	156,385	Int. - MBF	1
White oak (group)	$300	$210	$300	$175	$190	9,939	Int. - MBF	2

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed “# of Rpts.” to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. (“# of Rpts.” refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 9 timber sales containing 802.7 MBF located throughout the state.

Editor’s Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the “Conservation Assistance Contractors” link.

Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

Note: A “sale” often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the “# of Rpts.” (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

US Lumber Markets

As the U.S. housing slump drags on, the North American lumber industry must reduce production and close some mills permanently to fix its financial mess, said analysts who follow the industry.

Demand for lumber dropped in 2007 from 2006 and will drop again in 2008 largely because of the slowdown in home building, they said.

"We have way too much capacity. Demand is declining," said Paul Quinn, a Vancouver-based paper and forest products analyst at Salman Partners.

"I think just about everybody has looked out for the next 12 months and thought 'it's not going to be pretty'," he said of the lumber companies. "I'm surprised that more Canadian production has not shut down at this point."

Lumber companies probably will close inefficient mills and keep the efficient ones, which can boost production when needed, said Michael Armstrong, a Vancouver-based director in PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC's forest, paper and packaging unit.

Canadian lumber producer Tembec Inc. (TBC.TO: Quote, Profile, Research) said this week it will idle two lumber mills. Earlier this month, giant wood products company Weyerhaeuser Co. (WY.N: Quote, Profile, Research) said the weak market for wood products probably would result in it closing some production facilities.

The industry's troubles have been reflected in earnings reports of publicly traded lumber companies and more trouble may lie ahead.

"They are going to see a lot of red ink," said Quinn.

The primary culprit for lumber's woes has been the slowdown in home building. Tight credit, due in part to subprime lending crisis, has curbed both building and home buying.

"That is the biggest driver in our industry and it is the culprit," Ashley Boeckholt, a Chicago-based analyst with lumber dealer Bloch Lumber, said of the housing market.

In the United States, ground breaking for new homes fell to a 12-year low in August and building permits, which reflect pending home construction, also fell to a 12-year low.

"I know some of the home builders are pointing to 2009 or 2010 and I think that is probably a reasonable time frame," Paul Latta, director of research at investment services firm McAdams Wright Ragan said.

In addition to fewer homes being built, loan foreclosures due in part to the lending crisis, are putting more homes on the market, said Kevin Binam, director of economic services for the Western Wood Products Association.

"Repair and remodeling is also falling off," said Binam. "All of that has really impacted lumber consumption."

The WWPA estimates lumber use in the United States was down 16 percent during the first six months of this year at 27.4 billion board feet.

Canadian lumber companies have suffered further as their own currency has strengthened against the U.S. dollar, since more than half of Canada's lumber production is shipped to the United States.

"If you are a Canadian producer, you have the U.S. dollar, which is a significant headwind," said Quinn. "They are getting a lot less for the wood."

The weak U.S. dollar has virtually erased the premium Canadian producers earned when they sold wood here and converted the revenue to the Canadian currency.

Historically the U.S. dollar has been stronger than the Canadian dollar. But lately the U.S. dollar has been driven lower due to worries about the weak housing market and recent interest rates cuts. The U.S. currency is now nearly on par with the Canadian dollar.

Source: Reuters

* * * * *

Missouri's Neighbors

South-wide average stumpage prices declined slightly for four out of the five major products this quarter. Only mixed hardwood sawtimber eased upwards. Dry weather in the eastern South has cut demand along with curtailed lumber production in the wake of weaker housing markets.

Hardwood sawtimber prices increased slightly for the quarter as well as the same period a year ago. Average hardwood pulpwood prices showed a decline this quarter of over 8 percent, about $0.50 per ton; however, still up over 10.5 percent from last year's average.

The TMS Forest Business Optimism survey showed that our reporters' confidence in the growth of the forest industry economy remained moderate in the 2nd Quarter, about the same as last quarter. Overall optimism scored 54 in both periods. However, this quarter the middle-of-the road lost ground and responses were more evenly distributed. A year ago reporters were more optimistic at 64 in the 2nd Quarter of 2006.

Optimism about the housing markets remained steady. Most respondents still expect a dip followed by a recovery over the next twelve months.

Confidence in a growing Biomass Market remained strong. About 82 percent expect slow but steady development of biomass markets in the South.

In Tennessee, the market has been poor for a while and the summer sure doesn't help much. The soft housing market in the United States has kept demand lower for a number of species and products. The bright spots continue to be White Oak and Walnut. Export to Europe for White Oak and the flooring market for Walnut has each of these species in high demand and high prices. The dollar has been weaker favoring US exporters in the global economy, even though the slumping US housing market has had an effect on the worldwide demand for hardwood lumber used to produce furniture and other finished goods being sent back to the US market.

Source: Timber-Mart South, Tennessee Forest Products Bulletin

* * * * *

News from Missouri

Most of my time lately has been tied up by trying to stay abreast of woody biomass issues. I have been to several conferences on biomass and am learning as much as possible.

There are several potential uses for woody biomass (examples of woody biomass are tree tops, small diameter trees, and cull logs). Electric and heat can be generated out of burning wood chips through different technologies to power generators and the use of steam for heat. Cellulosic ethanol can also be made out of wood.

The word "cellulosic" was new to me until about a year and a half ago, and now I have been hearing it everywhere! So what is it? Cellulosic ethanol can be made out of cellulose found in all plant matter. Corn stover, switch-grass, and wood are the primary feed-stocks used in cellulosic ethanol production.

Technology to break down the cellulose is still being heavily research. The two conversion platforms that exist to break down cellulose into building blocks for ethanol are sugar or biological and thermochemical. These current technologies are still fairly expensive to apply. It is still the common belief that better technology which should cost less to produce a gallon of cellulosic ethanol is 3-5 years away.

Woody biomass has been used for many years in Missouri. Wood pellets are currently being produced in Missouri, and this is a good way to utilize sawdust. The wood pellets are used for heating homes and buildings. Charcoal has been produced out of woody biomass for many years, using sawdust to make the briquettes.

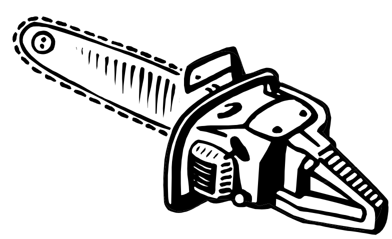
I am currently involved with two projects that involved the future of woody biomass in Missouri. The first project involves writing *Best Management Practices* (BMPs), guidelines for woody biomass harvesting. The Top-of-the-Ozarks RC&D applied for and received a grant to write the BMPs with the partnership of several other cooperators including MDC. This process is going to involve talking to stakeholder groups and using professionals in fields such as soils, forest management, forest ecology, wildlife, and hydrology to write the BMPs. These BMPs should give guidance in the future sustainability of our forest, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

The second project I have been working on is the "Wood to Energy" or Jump Start grant. University of Missouri Extension Forester Hank Stelzer and MDC are partnering on conducting community meetings in three locations in southern Missouri. This project will hopefully stir up community interest in using wood to generate some of their energy needs.

I am not sure where the future of using woody biomass will go in Missouri. I do intend to stay informed about its possible uses. I intend to help facilitate its usage as long as it can be done in a way that will enhance forest sustainability.

If you have any questions concerning woody biomass you can give me a call. John Tuttle (573) 522-4115 ext 3304.

* * * * *



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Oct.-Dec., 2007, Vol. 17 No. 4
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Statewide Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$3,535	$1,665	$2,355	$2,850	$2,370	43 Int. - MBF	9
Sawlogs							
Ash	$85	$85	$85	$105	$130	- Int. - MBF	1
Cherry	$85	$85	$85	$170	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Elm	$85	$85	$85	-	$35	- Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$220	$85	$215	-	$50	103 Int. - MBF	2
Hickory	$125	$85	$120	$150	$120	21 Int. - MBF	4
Mixed Hardwoods	$240	$40	$95	$75	$115	249 Int. - MBF	6
Oak (mixed species)	$310	$85	$160	$150	$135	1,736 Int. - MBF	20
Post Oak	$220	$85	$200	$150	$135	12 Int. - MBF	3
Red oak (group)	$225	$85	$195	$215	$190	1,306 Int. - MBF	8
Shortleaf Pine	$220	$100	$215	$90	-	88 Int. - MBF	2
Soft Maple	$110	$110	$110	-	$250	11 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$915	$525	$775	$710	$730	101 Int. - MBF	11
White oak (group)	$220	$85	$200	$300	$205	411 Int. - MBF	5

North Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$3,535	$1,790	$2,610	-	$2,055	26 Int. - MBF	5
Sawlogs							
Ash	$85	$85	$85	-	$135	- Int. - MBF	1
Cherry	$85	$85	$85	-	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Elm	$85	$85	$85	-	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Hackberry	$85	$85	$85	-	-	1 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$125	$85	$120	$125	$135	20 Int. - MBF	3
Mixed Hardwoods	$240	$40	$95	$90	$115	249 Int. - MBF	6
Oak (mixed species)	$225	$85	$145	$100	$100	71 Int. - MBF	3
Post Oak	$85	$85	$85	-	-	- Int. - MBF	1
Red oak (group)	$110	$85	$100	$165	$165	96 Int. - MBF	3
Soft Maple	$110	$110	$110	-	$250	11 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$915	$585	$845	$690	$650	51 Int. - MBF	6
White oak (group)	$165	$85	$145	$125	$150	78 Int. - MBF	2

Central Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$1,665	$1,665	$1,665	$2,850	$2,590	9 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Walnut, Black	$665	$665	$665	$900	$780	30 Int. - MBF	1

Southwest Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$2,085	$2,085	$2,085	-	$1,585	4 Int. - MBF	2
Sawlogs							
Oak (mixed species)	$225	$120	$170	-	$115	388 Int. - MBF	8
Red oak (group)	$225	$225	$225	-	$185	14 Int. - MBF	1
Walnut, Black	$835	$525	$745	-	$675	21 Int. - MBF	4
White oak (group)	$200	$200	$200	-	-	11 Int. - MBF	1

Southeast Stumpage Prices

	High	Low	Avg.	Last Qtr.	Last Yr.	Vol.	# of Rpts.
Veneer							
Walnut, Black	$2,360	$2,360	$2,360	-	-	4 Int. - MBF	1
Sawlogs							
Hackberry	$220	$220	$220	-	-	101 Int. - MBF	1
Hickory	$120	$120	$120	$150	$115	- Int. - MBF	1
Oak (mixed species)	$310	$120	$160	$150	$200	1,277 Int. - MBF	9
Post Oak	$220	$120	$205	$150	$145	12 Int. - MBF	2
Red oak (group)	$220	$140	$200	$215	$190	1,196 Int. - MBF	4
Shortleaf Pine	$220	$100	$215	$90	-	88 Int. - MBF	2
White oak (group)	$220	$140	$215	$300	$225	322 Int. - MBF	2

Averages are based on received reports. Refer to the column headed “# of Rpts.” to get a gauge of how accurate the average prices may be. (“# of Rpts.” refers to the number of sales including a particular species and may sum to more than the number of sales.) Changes since last quarter and last year should be read with caution as the number of reports varies each year and quarter. This report can only be used as a general guide for determining market value of timber. General market and economic conditions, as well as local considerations such as accessibility, terrain, sale size, and tree size and quality also affect the price paid.

Please see the map on page 7 for a definition of reporting regions.

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼” MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

Foresters reported stumpage prices resulting from 47 timber sales containing 4,468 MBF located throughout the state.

Editor's Note

Remember that one of the most valuable sources for information on log and timber markets is the local Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Forester or your Consulting Forester. Contact the nearest Forest District office for up-to-date, local advice. The Missouri Department of Conservation's Forestry Division, (573) 751-4115, will be happy to provide you with the name and address of the Resource Forester or MDC Regional Office nearest to you. You can locate a Consulting Forester by visiting the Mo. Consulting Forester's Association web site at: *www.missouriforesters.com* or by visiting the Private Land Assistance page of the MDC website *http://mdc.mo.gov/landown/* and clicking on the "Conservation Assistance Contractors" link.

Tom Treiman and John Tuttle, Editors

Note: A "sale" often includes several different species so the number of sales may be less than the "# of Rpts." (number of reports) listed in the tables.

Tree Scale Conversion Factors

Sawlogs - Veneer Logs	Int'l = Doyle x 1.2
Pulpwood Pine	5,200 lbs/cord
Hardwood (hard)	5,600 lbs/cord
Hardwood (soft)	4,200 lbs/cord

Note: All prices and volumes are reported in International ¼" MBF Scale. To convert to Int.-BF prices or volume, divide by 1,000. To convert volume from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, divide by 1.2. To convert prices from Int.-MBF to Doyle MBF, multiply by 1.2.

American Forest & Paper Association Takes on Illegal Logging

AF&PA is positioned as a proponent of international efforts to control illegal logging. AF&PA members are disadvantaged by competition with products manufactured from illegally harvested logs and thus support the purchase and utilization of forest products which are both legal and sustainable. Illegal logging not only contributes to deforestation, but also undermines the viability of legally harvested and traded forest products and is a serious detriment to forest sustainability.

According to a recent report commissioned by AF&PA, up to ten percent of global timber production could be of suspicious origin and illegal logging depresses world legally harvested wood prices by seven to 16 percent on average, depending on the product. Were there no illegally harvested wood in the global market, the study estimated the value of U.S. wood exports could increase by over $460 million each year.

Solutions to the illegal logging issue must reduce the spread between the costs of operating illegally and the costs of operating legitimately. Policy makers should consider that raising the cost for legal trade could have a perverse and unintended impact.

AF&PA is a leader in fighting illegal logging. In January 2002, members of the AF&PA, committed to abide by domestic and sovereign laws pertaining to logging and harvesting in any country where logging and tree removals take place. In 2003, AF&PA joined with the U.S. Department of State, Conservation International (CI) and others to announce the launch of the President's Initiative Against Illegal Logging. And in 2005, AF&PA joined with CI to create the Alliance to Combat Illegal Logging, a partnership designed to help put a halt to timber operations in national parks and other protected areas.

AF&PA welcomes the interest shown by Congress to ensure that the policies aimed at decreasing the trade of illegally harvested timber and forest products do not have inadvertent and sometimes counter-productive consequences. We are concerned that demand-side measures could increase costs for legitimate, legal producers while decreasing the risks associated with illegal production. It is essential that policy responses do not create perverse incentives by raising the costs of "legal" forest products, thus making illegal logging even more profitable.

AF&PA stands ready to work with legislators and other interested stakeholders to craft appropriate solutions that do not hinder legitimate business transactions. We look forward to working together to stop this international problem that hurts the environment, the economy, and those companies that are doing right by our forests worldwide.

Source: American Forest & Paper Association

Valuing Urban Trees

When the University of Texas was building a dormitory last year, an unusual sign hung nearby. "Do not discard or pour paint, mortar, trash or any construction material or debris on this tree," it declared. "The replacement value of this oak tree is $90,000."

Strange but true: the trees in American backyards may be worth far more than the cars in the front drive, at least in theory. Much depends, of course, on what sort of trees they are. In Nebraska a sugar maple is worth more than an oak, according to a 2004 guide. Trunk size, the tree's condition, its species and location—one in New York City will be worth more than a comparable specimen in Ellington, MO—will all affect values.

Amid fears of global warming, tree hugging is on the rise, not least among politicians. Al Gore has made tree planting central to his message for the Live Earth jamboree on July 7th. Michael Bloomberg has plans to plant 1million trees in New York, which will further boost property values and clean the air.

Of course, no amount of urban oaks can make up for the loss of rainforest in Indonesia—but that has not stopped cities from boasting about the value of their greenery. A recent "tree census" in New York City, conducted at the behest of Bloomberg, values the city's nearly 600,000 trees at $122 million. A rough breakdown: $11 million for filtering out air pollutants; $28m saved in energy consumption (less need for air conditioners); $36 million for stemming storm-water run-off; and $53 million in "aesthetic benefits". The Forest Service values the urban canopy in all of America at $14.3 billion.

What is the use of all these numbers? Bloomberg cannot sell off trees to patch a hole in his budget, after all. They are, literally, a fixed asset. But for politicians, numbers help. By claiming that every $1 put into New York's trees returns $5.60 in benefits, he may find it easier to galvanize Americans to plant more and are for the ones already there.

Source: Economist.com

News from Missouri

One of my job duties is to encourage Best Management Practices (BMPs) on timber sales. I have observed that loggers seldom install water bars in skid trails and roads without the involvement of a forester. I know from my own experience as a logger that installing water bars take time, cost money, and is hard on equipment.

Sediment from soil erosion is considered pollution if it moves off site from its original location. This sediment can change the temperature and oxygen content of the water. A change in the water can cause major problems for aquatic life in the stream. In addition to the erosion, tree tops in creeks can cause log jams which can lead to stream channel changes.

Surveys in Missouri have shown that water quality is a major concern. Almost all erosion from a timber sale comes from logging roads and log landings. Studies have shown that if well constructed water bars are installed in these areas that almost all pollution from a timber sale can be prevented.

It has been several years now since I last made a living from logging. Looking back on my old career. I wish I would have done more to prevent soil erosion. Soil is the foundation that trees grow upon and should be kept in place so future generations can benefit from our natural resources. It is my opinion that if we can stop 90% of all erosion on timber sales by simply putting in water bars on skid trails and landings, it is the logger's responsibility to do it while he is harvesting the timber.

I offer my assistance to any logger that needs help or training on water bar location and how to correctly install them. The Missouri Department of Conservation has a publication called *Missouri Watershed Protection Practices* that is valuable when dealing with BMPs. The previously mentioned publication can be found at the following web site or you can call me and I will be glad to send you a supply http://mdc4.mdc.mo.gov/documents/441.pdf .

Concerning a different subject, I visited with Tracey Switzer from the Missouri Department of Agriculture about doing a delivered log price report. Tracey intends to start doing this report again. I feel that it is a report that will be good for landowners, loggers, and sawmillers. Landowners and loggers will know what to expect when thinking about selling timber or logs to sawmills. The report will also be a way for sawmills to show landowners that there is a downturn or upturn in the markets and stumpage prices have changed. I would like to encourage sawmillers to work with Tracey if and when she contacts them.

If you have any questions concerning BMPs you can give me a call. John Tuttle (573) 522-4115 ext 3304.

Missouri Timber Price Trends tracks market prices for Stumpage. Reports on the Stumpage Market are received from Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters and private consulting foresters. Stumpage refers to timber sold on the stump and does not reflect delivered mill prices. These reports should serve as a general guide to track stumpage prices. Landowners should not use this report to replace a timber inventory and marketing assistance as methods of conducting a sale. Missouri Department of Conservation Resource Foresters will be able to provide information on current, local market conditions. Details of all private sales and delivered prices are kept confidential.

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